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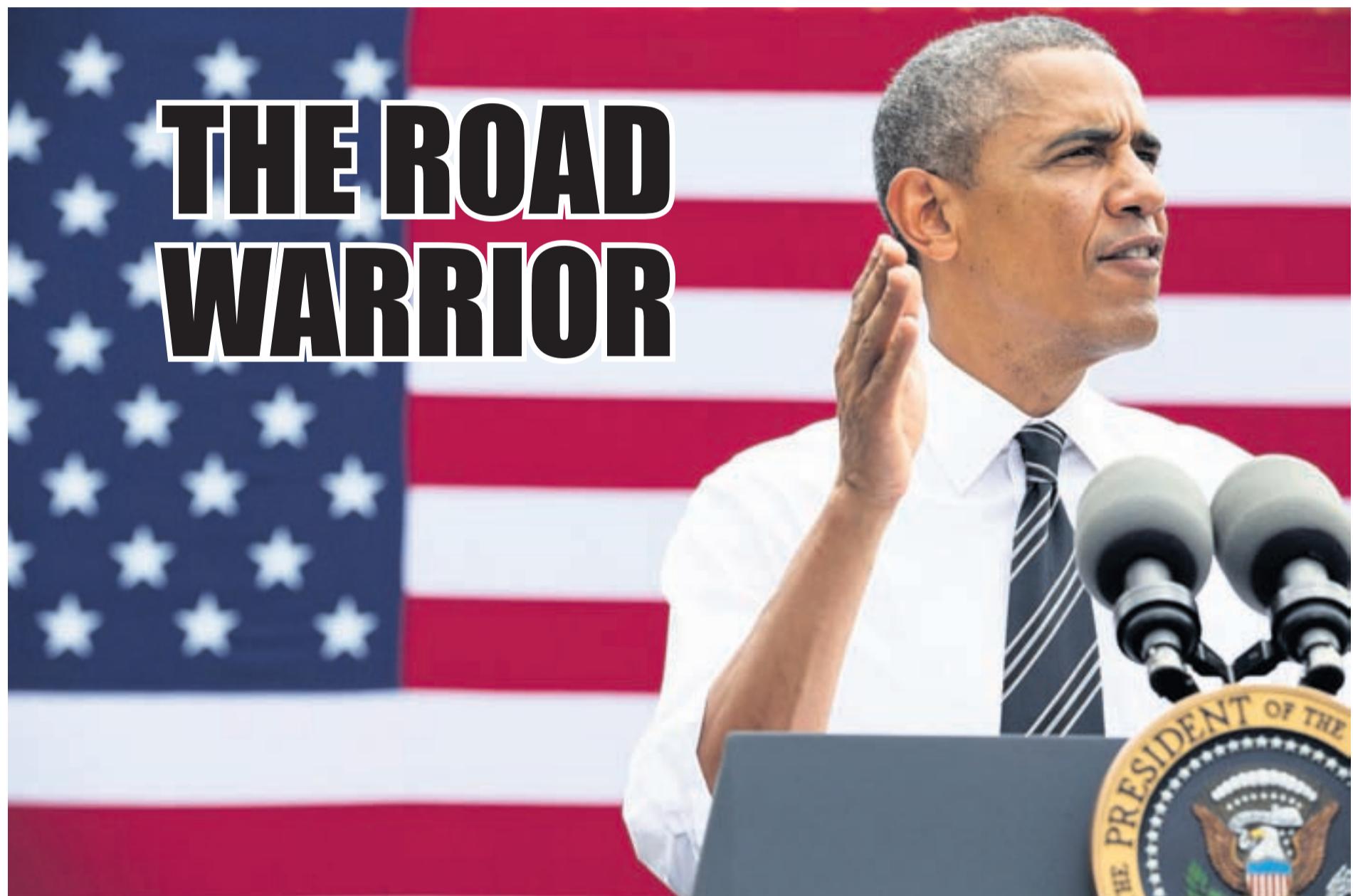


**TOURIST KIDS PROUD
TO SUPPORT ARUBA'S
MARINE LIFE PROJECT**

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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, July 16, 2014



President Barack Obama speaks about the economy at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Va., Tuesday, July 15, 2014. President Barack Obama envisions a time when cars will be able to talk with other cars or with America's roads. He says such technology could prevent crashes, cut down on traffic and save gasoline.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Obama Presses Congress for Transportation Bill

PETER BAKER

© 2014 New York Times

MCLEAN, Va. - President Barack Obama on Tuesday pressed Congress to break a deadlock over a long-term transportation spending bill, arguing that Republicans were more interested in trying to "score points on cable TV" than in fixing the country's roads

and bridges.

Visiting a transportation research facility, the president spoke hours before the House was to take up a short-term highway plan that would keep construction crews working through next May. Obama expressed support for that temporary fix but scorned Republicans for not agree-

ing to a multiyear program. "Congress shouldn't pat itself on the back for averting disaster for a few months, kicking the can down the road for a few months, careening from crisis to crisis," Obama told workers at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center just outside Washington. "We should be investing in the future."

Without the action, the Highway Trust Fund will be depleted at the beginning of August, cutting federal transportation financing by 28 percent and slowing or stopping as many as 100,000 projects around the country just as the construction season is about to start in many states, ac-

cording to officials. Congress in the past typically passed new highway bills with bipartisan support, but in recent years even this once-popular spending priority has become a subject of intense partisan friction.

Continued on page 3

Kerry cites 'progress' in Iran talks but notes 'very real gaps' remain

MICHAEL R. GORDON

DAVID E. SANGER

© 2014 New York Times

VIENNA - After three days of intensive talks with his Iranian counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday that "tangible progress" had been made in negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, and that he would return to Washington to consult with President Barack Obama

ence here, Kerry said, "I am returning to Washington today to consult with President Obama and with leaders in Congress over coming days about the prospects for a comprehensive agreement as well as a path forward if we do not achieve one by the 20th of July, including the question whether or not more time is warranted."

It was an indication of the

produce weapons-grade material.

U.S. officials were clearly annoyed that Zarif had discussed details of his proposals, and Kerry said that he would not negotiate in public.

"The real negotiation is not going to be done in the public eye," he said. "These are tough negotiations."

U.S. officials are concerned about several major ele-



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaking to the media after closed-door nuclear talks on Iran in Vienna, Austria, Tuesday, July 15, 2014. Intense negotiations with Iran have yielded "tangible progress," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday, but significant gaps remain ahead of a July 20 target date for a deal meant to put firm curbs on Tehran's nuclear activities in exchange for an end to sanctions.

(AP Photo/Ronald Zak)

over whether to extend a Sunday deadline for a final agreement.

Kerry said "very real gaps" remained, but his tone - and his acknowledgment that Iran had complied with all of its commitments under a temporary agreement that took effect in January - left little doubt he wanted to extend the talks by weeks or months. "That's where we're headed, I think," one of his top advisers said.

But as the July 20 deadline approaches, an accord is not yet in hand. The temporary agreement allows for an extension of the talks for up to six months, but some in Obama's negotiating team have suggested that a shorter extension might be more fruitful.

At a short news confer-

complexity of the talks and Kerry's negotiating style that immediately after his news conference he launched into a meeting with Catherine Ashton, the foreign policy chief for the European Union, and then yet another meeting with Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister, his fourth in three days.

Kerry declined to comment on the proposal that Zarif outlined in an interview with The New York Times for what would amount to an extension of the current short-term agreement for a number of years. Under Zarif's proposal, Iran would not have to dismantle any of its existing centrifuges, but would use a combination of technologies and inspection to provide assurances they could not

ments of Zarif's proposal. While it would essentially freeze Iran's capacity to produce enriched uranium for several years, Iran would be free to keep up research and development of highly sophisticated centrifuges, and put them in place after the agreement would expire.

Zarif wants a short agreement, of three to seven years.

The United States and its allies insist on limitations on Iran for at least a decade, preferably longer.

There has been some speculation that Zarif's hints of flexibility, and the progress Kerry reported Tuesday, will be enough to provide a basis for continuing the nuclear talks past July 20, which can be done if both sides agree.□

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Fireworks factory blast kills 4 in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AP) — Police say an explosion at a fireworks factory has left at least four people dead and three injured in southeastern Brazil. Inspector Lucelio Silva tells the G1 news portal the explosion occurred Tuesday morning in one of the production units of the factory, which is located in a rural part of the municipality of Santo Antonio do Monte in the state of Minas Gerais. He said the four people killed were women working in the factory.

Two women suffered minor injuries and one man was hospitalized with burns to his back. Silva said the investigation into the cause of the explosion will last about 30 days.

Calls to the police department for more details went unanswered.□

Colombia might bring victims to talks

HAVANA (AP) — Representatives of Colombia's government have put forth a proposal to leftist rebels that would allow victims of the country's armed conflict to be present for peace talks being held in Cuba. The comments by government negotiator Humberto de la Calle are the first public signal that talks resumed on Tuesday. The two sides announced last week they would restart negotiations following a break for Colombia's presidential election.

De la Calle said in an audio recording released by Colombia's presidency that "we have come to Havana with a concrete proposal to allow for the presence of the victims in the talks." He said he wants to discuss the details for how such participation would work.□

Blaze torches popular market in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A fire early Tuesday engulfed part of a sprawling market in Haiti's capital where vendors sell charcoal and wood for construction.

There were no reports of deaths or injuries. Nadia Lachard from Haiti's Civil Protection Department said there was "significant" damage to sections of Port-au-Prince's popular Croix de Boussales market. The pre-dawn fire destroyed a collection of stalls where vendors displayed piles of wood and charcoal, she said.

Sections of the market where vendors sell clothing, food and metal mostly survived the fire but some stalls were damaged. The cause of the blaze was under investigation.□

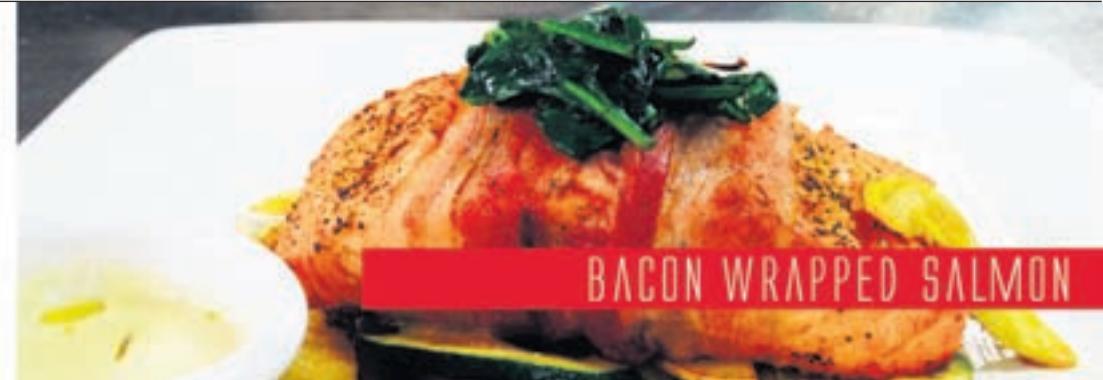
Evo Morales a candidate for 3rd term

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivian President Evo Morales' candidacy for a third consecutive term is now official. Bolivia's electoral council announced late Monday that the Andean nation's first indigenous president will be on the Oct. 12 ballot. The 54-year-old coca growers' union leader is heavily favored to win. Bolivia's new constitution, ratified in 2009, sets a two-term limit for presidents, but the country's Supreme Court ruled last year that Morales' initial 2006-2009 term was exempt.

The main opposition candidate is currently cement magnate Samuel Doria Medina, who got less than 10 percent of the votes in the last three presidential elections.□



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U.S. preparing unilateral sanctions against Russia

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is considering imposing unilateral sanctions on Russia over its threatening moves in Ukraine, a shift in strategy that reflects the Obama administration's frustration with Europe's reluctance to take tougher action against Moscow, according to U.S. and European officials.

Until now, the U.S. has insisted on hitting Russia with penalties in concert with Europe in order to maximize the impact and present a united Western front. The European Union has a far stronger economic relationship with Russia, making the 28-nation bloc's participation key to ensuring sanctions packages have enough teeth to deter Russia.

But those same economic ties have made Europe fearful that tougher penalties against Russia could boomerang and hurt their own economies. After weeks of inaction, the officials say the U.S. is now prepared to move forward alone if EU officials fail to enact strong sanctions during a meeting Wednesday in Brussels.

The U.S. official cautioned that no final decisions would be made until after the European meeting and said the administration's preference was still to coordinate punishments with Russia. The officials insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly by name.

The White House's willingness to punish Russia without European backing comes as the Obama administration faces criticism that its repeated warnings about tougher sanctions are little more than empty threats. "Sometimes I'm embarrassed for you, as you constantly talk about sanctions and yet, candidly, we never see them put in place," Sen. Bob Corker, a Republican, said during a Senate hearing on Ukraine with administration officials last week.

The U.S. and Europe have levied coordinated sanctions on Russian individuals and companies connected to Moscow's alleged destabilization in Ukraine. But those penalties have had little impact in stopping a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

Obama and European counterparts have vowed to take even broader sanctions targeting Russia's lucrative energy and defense sectors, as well as access to financial markets, if Moscow failed to quell tensions with Ukraine.

But it is unclear what the new package of U.S. sanctions would include.

During a Group of Seven meeting in Brussels in early June, Western leaders warned Russian President Vladimir Putin those penalties could be levied within a month if Russia did not meet specific conditions, including recognizing the results of Ukraine's May 25 election and start a dialogue with President Petro Poroshenko, ending support for the pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine and stopping the flow of arms across the Russian border. □

Obama presses congress for transportation bill

Continued from front

Obama linked the issue to his broader indictment of Congress for blocking measures on all sorts of issues, including immigration. "Do something," he said. "That's my big motto for Congress right now: Just do something. And if they don't like the transportation plan that I put

Monday that it was open to other financing methods and in the interim would support the House's temporary plan.

House Republicans scorned the latest presidential photo opportunity. Speaker John A. Boehner noted that the Senate, with a Democratic majority, had not taken up Obama's plan.

"If the president has a plan

The temporary highway bill that is set to be considered by the House, Republicans said, at least shows their efforts to solve problems.

"It's another example of House Republicans getting things done and supporting jobs, even as Senate Democrats fail to do much of anything, except for turning obstruction into an art form," Boehner's office said in a written statement.



President Barack Obama gets behind the wheel of a driving simulator at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Va., July 15, 2014. Obama used the visit to urge Congress to fund long-term infrastructure spending, but found time to address his recent complaint that he missed the road. "It was a little disorienting. I haven't driven in about six years," Obama noted.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

forward, at least come up with your own plan. And then we can compromise. But don't just sit there and do nothing. We don't have time."

In April, Obama sent Congress a proposed transportation program that would spend \$302 billion over four years, financed both by traditional gasoline taxes as well as by the elimination of some corporate tax breaks. Republicans have resisted that plan, calling it just another tax increase that will stifle job creation. The White House said on

for a longer-term highway bill, he ought to get the Democratic-controlled Senate to pass it, and we'll take a look at it," Boehner told reporters on Capitol Hill. "But until then, giving speeches about a long-term highway bill is frankly just more rhetoric."

House Republicans reject the argument that they are the ones not doing something, pointing to dozens of bills that they have passed in the name of creating jobs but that remain bottled up in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The debate is complicated by the structural design of the Highway Trust Fund, which is financed by gasoline taxes that are not indexed to inflation. Officials have struggled to find additional revenue sources to keep the same level of activity without the political risk of either raising taxes or even seeming to raise taxes.

The president's speech on Tuesday was part of a week of White House activities intended to focus attention on the roads-and-bridges debate. □

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Vargas, journalist, activist, is released by US Border Patrol

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN

Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, a Philippines-born immigration activist who has lived and in the U.S. illegally since he was a child, was released by U.S. Border Patrol agents on Tuesday after they detained him at a Texas airport.

Border Patrol spokesman Omar Zamora said Vargas was stopped going through security at the airport in McAllen, just across from the Mexico border. A spokeswoman for Define American, Vargas' advocacy group, confirmed his release Tuesday afternoon. It is common for the Border Patrol to release people on their own recognizances, with notices to appear in

court later. With such notices, people can generally travel throughout the U.S.

without being detained again. Vargas had been visiting the border city for

several days as part of a vigil to highlight the plight of unaccompanied immi-



A video screen grab of Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and an activist for undocumented immigrants like himself, speaks at a news conference in McAllen, Texas, July 11, 2014. Vargas was detained Tuesday morning at a Border Patrol checkpoint in the airport here before he could board a flight to Houston.

(Brent McDonald/The New York Times)

Woman gets life sentence for US killing spree

STEVEN DUBOIS

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — A U.S. judge on Tuesday sentenced a woman to life in prison for her role in a Pacific Northwest killing spree that authorities say was part of a white supremacist scheme.

Holly Grigsby apologized to friends and relatives of the victims for her actions, but not for her views. Grigsby said she realized any explanation for her behavior, such as her drug addiction, would come across as an

excuse.

Grigsby, 27, and her boyfriend, David "Joey" Pedersen, were arrested in 2011 after the deaths of Pedersen's father and stepmother, along with an Oregon teenager and a California man.

Grigsby pleaded guilty in March to racketeering charges connected to the four killings. The plea agreement called for a life sentence with no chance for release.

Joey Pedersen will be sentenced to life in prison at

an Aug. 4 hearing in federal court. He has pleaded guilty to two counts of carjacking resulting in death. Grigsby expressed no regret for white supremacist beliefs, only the effect her crimes would have on their public perception.

"My actions have further damaged the reputation of a movement misunderstood," she said. "I deeply regret this."

Pedersen is the founder of a white supremacist prison gang, and he told Grigsby about his desire to start

a revolution with a killing rampage targeting Jewish leaders.

It started on Sept. 26, 2011, when Joey Pedersen shot his father, Red Pedersen, in the back of a head while the elder Pedersen was driving, authorities said. Joey Pedersen and Grigsby returned to the house. Dee Dee Pedersen was bound with duct tape, cut in the neck and left to bleed to death.

The couple then drove Red Pedersen's vehicle south into Oregon. □

grant children coming into the U.S. illegally who have overwhelmed Border Patrol facilities.

Vargas went public about his own immigration status in a 2011 piece for the New York Times Magazine, revealing that he had been living in the U.S. illegally since he was brought from the Philippines as a child to live with his grandparents. He was part of a team of reporters at The Washington Post that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2008.

At McAllen/Miller International Airport, Vargas knew he could have problems. Border Patrol agents stand alongside Transportation Security Administration personnel to check documentation — even for domestic flights and he was carrying only a passport from the Philippines and a palm-size copy of the U.S. Constitution. On Tuesday morning, Vargas tweeted: "About to go thru security at McAllen Airport.

I don't know what's going to happen."

Vargas, who directed a documentary called "Documented," was unaware he would have to pass through an immigration check prior to arriving in the city, said Ryan Eller, campaign director for Define American, the advocacy group founded by Vargas.

"We had been to border towns before like San Diego and other places" □

New Orleans:

Convicted ex-mayor Nagin files appeal notice

KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin filed a formal notice of appeal Tuesday

prison sentence of 10 years. Nagin, a Democrat, was convicted in February on charges including conspiracy, bribery, money laundering, wire fraud and filing

— including the Hurricane Katrina disaster in 2005.

The brief notice said the appeal will cover the verdict, the sentence and an order that Nagin forfeit over \$500,000 acquired illegally, as well as court rulings prior to the verdict.

The notice was filed in U.S. District Court, and the appeal will be considered by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Nagin is to report to a federal prison on Sept. 8.

Until his indictment in 2013, Nagin was perhaps best known for a widely heard, profanity-laced radio interview in which he angrily blasted the federal response in the days after levee breaches flooded most of the city during Ka-

trina.

He had been elected as a reformer, but prosecutors said graft in his administration began before Katrina and flourished afterward. The bribes came in the form of money, free vacations and truckloads of free granite for his family business. While Nagin appeals his case, prosecutors may appeal as well. They had pushed for a sentence of about 20 years. They objected when U.S. District Judge Helen Berrigan departed from federal guidelines with the 10-year sentence.

A decision on whether to appeal will be made by the U.S. Solicitor General in Washington, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. □



Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin leaves federal court, with his wife, Seletha Nagin, left, after being sentenced in New Orleans. Nagin filed a formal notice of appeal Tuesday in the corruption case that resulted in a guilty verdict on 20 criminal counts and a prison sentence of 10 years.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

in the corruption case that resulted in a guilty verdict on 20 criminal counts and a

false tax returns. The charges stem from his two terms as mayor from 2002 to 2010

Missouri appeals stay of execution

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A U.S. judge on Tuesday granted a stay of execution for a Missouri man hours before he was scheduled to be put to death for killing three people out of fear that they would tell police about his drug dealing.

A U.S. District judge ruled that there was enough question about John Middleton's sanity that a hearing should determine if he is fit to be executed. Courts have established that executing the insane is unconstitutional.

"(Middleton) has provided evidence that he has been diagnosed with a variety of mental health disorders, and has received a number of psychiatric medications over the years," Perry wrote, adding that other inmates "indicate that he frequently talks to people who are not there, and tells stories that could not have had any basis in reality."

The Missouri Attorney General's office immediately asked the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to allow the execution to go ahead.

Middleton, 54, is scheduled to die by injection at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. He would be the sixth man put to death in Missouri this year. Only Florida and Texas have performed more executions in 2014, with seven each. The appeals court had late Monday refused to halt the execution because Middleton says he is innocent of the killings. That case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, said Richard Sindel, one of Middleton's attorneys.

Middleton was convicted of killing Randy "Happy" Hamilton and Stacey Hodge in June 1995. He then killed Alfred Pinegar several days later, out of concern that they would tell police about Middleton's methamphetamine dealing. Middleton's girlfriend, Maggie Hodges, is serving life in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder in all three cases.

Middleton's attorneys contend that the wrong man was arrested, citing new evidence that included a witness who came forward in February. □

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US consumers remain cautious; retail sales up 0.2% in June

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. retail sales increased slightly in June, evidence that consumers remain cautious despite steady job gains this year.

Retail sales rose just 0.2 percent last month, the Commerce Department said Tuesday, held back by a sharp drop at building and garden supply stores. Sales also fell at restaurants and at auto dealers.

The figures suggest that Americans are still reluctant to spend freely, limiting growth in the April-June quarter. While employers have stepped up hiring since January, wage growth remains weak and is barely keeping up with inflation. Retail sales are closely watched because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of the economy.

Still, economists were encouraged by some of the details in the report. A measure of retail sales that excludes volatile categories such as gasoline and autos rose at a solid 0.6 percent

clip. Clothing stores, sporting goods stores and department stores all recorded decent sales gains. And a category that includes

ber for June was disappointing, there were some underlying pockets of strength," Jim Baird, chief investment officer for Plan-

year high in June. The two sets of data can sometimes conflict on a month-to-month basis.

Retail sales were revised



Jody Dickman, of Pittsburgh, shops at a Gap store in Pittsburgh. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for June on Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

online and catalog retailers jumped 0.9 percent in June and has increased 8.1 percent in the past 12 months. That's nearly double the 4.3 percent growth in overall retail sales in the past year.

"While the headline num-

te Moran Financial Advisors, said. "The solid advance ... across numerous retail sectors suggests that consumers are spending, but doing so selectively." Sales at auto and auto parts dealers fell 0.3 percent, which contradicts strong data released by the automakers themselves earlier this month. The automakers had said sales reached an eight-

higher in May to 0.5 percent from 0.3 percent, and in April to 0.6 percent from 0.5 percent.

Most analysts now expect the economy will expand at about a 3 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter, a forecast that was little changed by the retail sales report. That's not as strong a rebound as many economists had hoped from a weak first

quarter, when the economy shrank 2.9 percent, largely because of cold weather.

Economists had expected second-quarter growth of 3.5 percent rate a month ago, according to a survey by the National Association for Business Economics.

Several retailers have reported disappointing sales in the past month. Family Dollar, the Container Store and the Gap have all blamed falling sales on consumer caution. The CEO of the Container Store said the chain has been hurt by a "retail funk."

Yet some other stores reported healthy sales gains, including the discount club chain Costco and grocery chain Kroger's.

Purchases of large items like autos may be leaving many Americans with less money to spend on discretionary items like clothes and electronics. Rising grocery prices have likely also squeezed household budgets. Still, employers are hiring at a healthy pace, which may give Americans more confidence to spend. Employers have added an average of 230,000 jobs a month in the first half of this year, up from 194,000 a month in 2013. □

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US businesses rebuild stockpiles at steady pace

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies restocked their store shelves and warehouses at a steady pace in May, a sign they expect sales will remain solid in the months ahead.

Business stockpiles rose 0.5 percent in May, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

That was down slightly from a 0.6 percent gain in the previous month. April's increase was the highest in six months. Total business sales rose 0.4 percent, much lower than April's 0.8 percent gain.

Steady inventory rebuilding can bolster economic growth by increasing demand for manufactured goods and boosting fac-

tory production.

Economists generally were encouraged by the report. "With two months of accumulating stockpiles, we are on track for inventories to boost growth in the second quarter," said Tim Quinlan, an economist at Wells Fargo Securities.

Still, sales need to remain healthy so that companies aren't stuck with unwanted inventories.

For May, inventories at the wholesale level climbed 0.5 percent, while inventories held by retailers ticked up just 0.2 percent. Stockpiles held by manufacturers rose 0.8 percent.

Businesses sharply cut back on restocking in the first three months of the year, a big reason the economy shrank at a 2.9 percent

annual rate. That was the largest contraction since the first quarter of 2009, in the depths of the recession. But since then companies have stepped up their inventory rebuilding.

Greater restocking suggests that companies are confident consumer and business spending will grow, and they want to ensure that they have enough goods to meet the demand.

A report earlier Tuesday showed that retail sales increased at a tepid pace of just 0.2 percent in June. But there were also encouraging signs in the report: sales in a category that excludes volatile goods such as autos, gas and building materials increased at a healthy 0.6 percent pace. □

US Financial Front:

Yellen: America's economy still needs Fed support

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 15, 2014, before the Senate Banking Committee. Yellen said Tuesday that the economic recovery is not yet complete and for that reason the Fed intends to keep providing significant support to boost growth and improve labor market conditions.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Tuesday that the economic recovery is not yet complete and for that reason the Fed intends to keep providing significant support to boost growth and improve labor market conditions.

In delivering the Fed's semi-annual economic report to Congress, Yellen said the Fed's future actions will depend on how well the economy performs. She says if labor market conditions continue to improve more quickly than anticipated, the Fed could raise its key short-term interest rate sooner than currently projected. But she said weaker conditions will mean a longer period of low rates. Many economists believe the federal funds rate, which has been at a record low near zero since December 2008, will not be increased until next summer. Yellen said current monthly bond purchases will likely end in October.

Those bond purchases have been trimmed five times, taking them from \$85 billion per month down to \$35 billion per month currently. Yellen said if the economy keeps improving, the Fed will keep reducing the bond purchases at up-

coming meetings with the final move being a \$15 billion reduction at the October meeting.

In her testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, Yellen said the economy is improving and the sharp downturn in economic activity in the first three months of the year was likely the result of temporary factors.

"Although the economy continues to improve, the recovery is not yet complete," she said. Even with a drop in the unemployment rate to the lowest level since September 2008, Yellen said there were numerous signs of significant slack in the labor market, including continued weak growth in wages.

She also played down a recent acceleration in inflation, noting that inflation still remained below the Fed's 2 percent target. Prices were up 1.8 percent for the 12 months through May.

Because labor market conditions have not yet fully recovered from the deep 2007-2009 recession and because inflation remains below target, Yellen said the Fed expected to continue with its current policies of keeping interest rates exceptionally low to boost economic activity.

"We judge that a high degree of monetary policy

accommodation remains appropriate," Yellen said in her testimony.

In answering questions, Yellen said that while the drop in the unemployment rate was encouraging, it was too soon for the Fed to begin raising interest rates, given past periods in this recovery where hopeful signs of an acceleration in economic activity fizzled out. With its key short-term interest rate already as low as it can go, Yellen said the Fed had no margin for error.

"The Federal Reserve does need to be quite cautious with respect to monetary policy. We have in the past seen sort of false dawns, periods in which we thought our growth would

speed, pick up and the labor market would improve more quickly and later events have proven those hopes to be unfortunately over-optimistic," she told the committee. "We need to be careful to make sure that the economy is on a solid trajectory before we consider raising rates."

Yellen was scheduled to testify twice this week, before the Senate panel on Tuesday and the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday. She delivered her first monetary report to Congress in February, just a week after being sworn in to succeed Ben Bernanke as the first woman to head the central bank. □

ATENCION

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- Tur actividad lo ta na un distancia di mas di 3 kilometer for di costa.
- CAP N.V. ta haci un peticion na tur doño di barco pa cooperar pa e investigacion por tuma lugar na un forma sigur y adecuado.

CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. brings to the attention of the public in general that the company REPSOL will be conducting a seismic exploration survey offshore Aruba.

- This seismic survey is conducted in fulfillment of a contract between REPSOL and CAP in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of the Petroleum Ordinance offshore Aruba.
- The seismic survey will start the 2nd of July 2014 and will have a duration of approximately 3 months.
- The seismic vessel M/V Polar Duke will tow 12 submarine cables of 8 km - 10 km.
- Two support vessels CASSANDRA VI and TARASKA RG will give logistical assistance to the operations during the seismic survey and will maintain communications with other ships in the area.
- All seismic acquisition will be conducted at a distance of more than 3 kilometer from the coast.
- CAP N.V. requests the co-operation of boat owners in order to ensure that the survey is conducted in a safe and proper manner.

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Israel declares Hamas to pay price for its 'no' to truce

KARIN LAUB
ARON HELLER

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— Israel resumed its heavy bombardment of Gaza on Tuesday and warned that Hamas "would pay the price" after the Islamic militant group rejected an Egyptian truce plan and instead unleashed more rocket barrages at the Jewish state.

Late Tuesday, the military urged tens of thousands of residents of northern and eastern Gaza to leave their homes by Wednesday morning, presumably a prelude to air strikes there. Rocket fire from killed an Israeli man Tuesday, the first Israeli fatality in eight days of fighting. In Gaza, 197 people were killed and close to 1,500 wounded so far, Palestinian officials said, making it the deadliest Israel-Hamas confrontation in just over five years. The Egyptian proposal, initially accepted by Israel, had been the first attempt to end the fighting.

It unraveled in less than a day, a sign that it will be harder than before to reach a truce. Hamas does not consider Egypt's current rulers — who deposed a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo a year ago — to be fair brokers.

Violence is bound to escalate in coming days.

Hamas believes it has little to lose by continuing to fight, while a truce on unfavorable terms could further weaken its grip on the Gaza Strip, a territory it seized in 2007. Underscoring that position, Gaza militants fired more than 120 rockets and mortar rounds at Israel on Tuesday, during what Egypt had hoped would be a period of de-escalation.

A particularly heavy barrage came around dusk, with more than 40 rockets hitting Israel in just a few minutes, including one that fell on an empty school. TV footage showed children cowering behind a wall in Tel Aviv's main square as sirens went off. An Israeli man

force resumed its heavy bombardment of Gaza, launching 33 strikes from midafternoon, the military said. In all, Israeli aircraft struck close to 1,700 times since July 8, while Gaza militants fired more than 1,200 rockets at Israel. Netanyahu said Israel

operations for fear of getting entangled in the densely populated territory of 1.7 million.

Late Tuesday, the Israeli military told residents of the northern town of Beit Lahiya and the Gaza City neighborhoods of Shijaiyah and Zeitoun in automated

the deadliest since a major Israeli military offensive in the winter of 2008-09. The previous outbreak of cross-border violence, in 2012, eventually ended with the help of Egypt, at the time seen as a trusted broker by Hamas. Hamas officials Tuesday



Smoke rises after an Israeli missile strike in Gaza City, Tuesday, July 15, 2014. The Israeli military says it has resumed airstrikes on Gaza after Hamas militants violated a de-escalation brokered by Egypt.

(AP Photo/Adel Hana)

in his 30s was killed near the Gaza border when he was delivering food to soldiers — the first Israeli death.

Hamas' defiance prompted Israeli warnings. In an evening address aired live on TV, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that after Hamas' rejection of the truce, Israel had "no choice" but to respond more forcefully.

"Hamas chose to continue fighting and will pay the price for that decision," he said. "When there is no cease-fire, our answer is fire."

After holding its fire for six hours, the Israeli air

would have liked to see a diplomatic solution, but would keep attacking until rocket fire stops and Hamas' military capabilities are diminished. The Israeli leader said he would "widen and increase" the campaign against Hamas, but it remains unclear if that will include a ground offensive.

Israel has warned it might send troops into Gaza and has massed thousands of soldiers on the border. However, entering Gaza would likely drive up casualties on both sides. Israel has hesitated in the past to embark on ground op-

phone calls to leave their homes by early Wednesday.

Sami Wadiya, a resident of one of the areas likely to be targeted, said he would not leave his home. "We know it's risky, but there are no secure places to go to," he said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Israel has the right to defend itself, but that "no one wants to see a ground war."

"Our effort remains focused on seeing if we can return to a cease-fire," she said.

The current round has been

rejected the current Egyptian plan as is, noting they weren't consulted by Cairo. Some portrayed the truce offer as an ultimatum presented to Hamas by Israel and Egypt.

The officials said the Egyptian plan offered no tangible achievements, particularly on easing the border blockade that has been enforced by Israel and Egypt to varying degrees since 2007. Egypt tightened the closure in the past year by shutting down smuggling tunnels that were crucial for Gaza's economy, pushing Hamas into a severe financial crisis. □



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Iraqi parliament breaks its deadlock to elect speaker

QASSIM SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi lawmakers broke two weeks of deadlock Tuesday and elected a moderate Sunni as speaker of parliament, taking the first step toward forming a new government that is widely seen as crucial to confronting militants who have overrun much of the country.

Still, it was not clear whether lawmakers had reached a larger deal that would also include an agreement on the most contentious decision — the choice for prime minister. The incumbent, Nouri al-Maliki, has ruled the country since 2006, but is under intense pressure to step aside. So far, he has insisted on staying for a third term.

After voting behind closed doors, the legislature tallied the results on a whiteboard wheeled into the hall that showed Sunni lawmaker Salim al-Jubouri winning with 194 votes out of 273 cast in the 328-seat parliament. A second candidate, Shorooq al-Abayachi, received 19 votes. There were 60 abstentions.

"Today's step demonstrates the country's democracy and national unity," said Shiite lawmaker Abbas al-Bayati, putting a decidedly positive spin on a vote that was delayed twice. "We have now a legislative body that can do its job in building democracy."

Lawmakers broke into applause after al-Jubouri passed the 165-vote threshold needed to win the post, and some of his colleagues padded over to offer their congratulations.

According to the constitution, parliament now has 30 days to elect a president, who will then have 15 days to ask the leader of the largest bloc in the legislature to form a government. Then a prime minister will be picked. Under an informal agreement that took hold after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the speaker's chair goes to a Sunni, the presidency to a Kurd and the prime minister's post to a Shiite.

The inability of al-Maliki's government to halt the militant offensive over the past month has deeply shaken confidence, both at home and abroad, in his ability to hold Iraq together. His opponents — and even many of his former allies — accuse him of trying to monopolize power and alienating the Sunni minority.

Al-Maliki has so far refused to withdraw his candidacy, and insists he has a mandate because his bloc won the most seats in April elections.

Despite al-Jubouri's election, signs quickly emerged that any agreement on a president, prime minister and eventually a new Cabinet may still take some time.

Al-Bayati, the State of Law coalition legislator, said the Shiite bloc's support for al-Jubouri Tuesday was predicated upon reciprocal support for al-Maliki's prime minister bid. "There is an ethical and political agreement with the blocs to whom we gave our vote today to support their candidate for the post of parliament speaker, and to vote for our candidate for the post of prime minister: al-Maliki" al-Bayati said. □

Ukraine airstrike kills 11 civilians

PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

SNIZHNE, Ukraine (AP)

— An airstrike in eastern Ukraine sent an apartment building crumpling to the ground Tuesday, killing at least 11 people and adding to the steadily mounting civilian death toll from the fighting between government forces and pro-Russian insurgents.

Rebels pinned the attack on the Ukrainian air force. The government swiftly denied blame but was not immediately able to offer an alternative explanation. The bombing in the rebel-held town of Snizhne demonstrated how airstrikes and heavy rocket fire are becoming increasingly common as the conflict drags into its fourth month. The attack comes one day after a Ukrainian military transport plane was shot down in disputed circumstances.

The devastation in Snizhne bore signs of a strike by several missiles and left only a mountain of smoking debris. The four-story apartment block appeared to have been hit in two separate spots, causing the collapse of several tiers. A nearby house was also destroyed.

Resident Igor Chernetsov lost his wife in the attack. "I heard an explosion, and suddenly I was thrown out of the apartment, out of the fourth floor," said Chernetsov, his head swathed in a bandage. "I woke up covered in dust and had no idea what had happened."

Health officials in the Donetsk region, which includes Snizhne, provided the number of dead. Rescue workers pulled a small child with broken legs alive from the rubble as grieving residents sifted for belongings.



Rescue workers remove debris at a collapsed apartment after an airstrike in Snizhne, 100 kms east from the city of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine Tuesday, July 15, 2014. An airstrike demolished an apartment block in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday, killing at least nine civilians, rescue workers said. The attack adds to the steadily growing number of civilians killed over four months in a dogged pro-Russian insurgency. Government officials denied the Tuesday strike was carried out by Ukraine's air force. (AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

ings. An Associated Press reporter counted six large impact craters.

Dmitry Tymchuk, a military analyst who coordinates closely with Ukraine's Defense Ministry, said that since rebels are unlikely to have any planes capable of conducting the bombing, there could only be one explanation.

"Only Russian aviation could have performed the airstrike on Snizhne," he wrote on his Facebook account.

The Defense Ministry stopped short of that claim but insisted the bombing could not have been carried out by the air force as none of its planes were on sorties at the time of the strike. Security Council spokesman Andrei Lysenko called the incident a "cynical and bloody provocation" aimed at discrediting the armed forces. □

Palm Beach #5 in front of subway

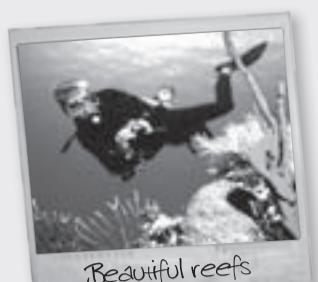
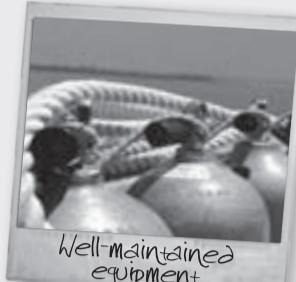
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Rush-hour Moscow subway derails: 21 dead, 136 hurt

VITNIJA SALDAVA

NATALIYA VASILYeva

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) —

A subway train derailed Tuesday deep below Moscow's streets, twisting and mangled crowded rail cars at the height of the morning rush hour. At least 21 people were killed, Russian officials said, and 136 were hospitalized, many with serious injuries.

The Russian capital's airports and transit systems have been a prime target for terrorists over the past two decades, but multiple officials vigorously dismissed terrorism as a possible cause.

The Moscow Metro is world-famous for its palatial interiors with mosaics, chandeliers and marble benches. Park Pobedy, where the derailment occurred, is

Moscow's deepest metro station — 84 meters (275 feet) below the surface — which made the rescue particularly difficult.

The station serves the vast park where Russia's World War II museum is located. It was unclear what caused the train to derail. Lines of

inquiry included a fault in one of the cars or the sinking of the roadbed, according to Vladimir Markin, spokesman for Russia's top investigative body. He said other officials who said earlier that a power surge triggered an alarm, causing the train to stop abruptly, were incorrect.

Of the 136 people hospitalized, at least 42 were in grave condition, health officials said.

One citizen of China and one citizen of Tajikistan were among those killed, Russian news agencies quoted city officials as saying.

Over 1,100 people were evacuated from the train, which was stuck between two stations, in a rescue operation that ended more than 12 hours after the accident. One woman taken



Paramedics and firefighters carry an injured man out of a subway station after a rush-hour subway train derailment in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, July 15, 2014. A rush-hour subway train derailed in Moscow Tuesday, killing more than 20 people and injuring scores, emergency officials said. The cause of the derailment is being investigated.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

from the scene died at a Moscow hospital.

In video released by the Emergency Situations Ministry, several wrecked train cars looked almost coiled, occupying the entire width of the tunnel. Workers were trying to force open the mangled doors of one car to retrieve bodies. Photos posted on social media sites showed passengers walking along the tracks in the dimly lit tunnel.

Russian officials rushed to open an investigation into the accident.

President Vladimir Putin, who is traveling in Brazil, demanded a detailed investigation into the "reasons for the event" and asked the country's top investigators to open a criminal case, his spokesman told Russian news agencies. □

89 killed in worst Afghanistan bombing since 2001

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives near a busy market and a mosque in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at least 89 people in the deadliest insurgent attack on civilians since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

The explosion destroyed dozens of mud-brick shops, flipped cars over and stripped trees of their branches, brutally underscoring the country's instability as U.S. troops prepare to leave by the end of the year and politicians in Kabul struggle for power after a disputed presidential runoff.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, the Defense Ministry spokesman, said the bomber detonated his ex-

plosives as he drove by the crowded market in a remote town in Urgun district, in the Paktika province bordering Pakistan.

Azimi gave the death toll and said more than 40 other people were wounded. The military supplied helicopters and ambulances to take the victims to the hospital, he said, adding that the explosion destroyed more than 20 shops and dozens of vehicles.

Many of the victims were buried under the rubble, said Mohammad Reza Kharoti, administrative chief of Urgun district.

"It was a very brutal suicide attack against poor civilians," he said. "There was no military base nearby."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, and the Taliban issued a statement denying

involvement, saying they "strongly condemn attacks on local people." Several other insurgent groups operate in Afghanistan.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said initial reports "sug-

gest that the attacker prematurely detonated after police detected the explosives in his vehicle."

"Today's appalling attack during Ramadan — an occasion that should be ob-



Afghanistan's security forces and civilians walk at the site of a suicide attack in the Urgun area of Paktika province, Afghanistan, Tuesday, July 15, 2014. The attack near a busy market and a mosque killed at least 89 people in the deadliest insurgent attack on civilians since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

(AP Photo/Pajhwok News Agency)

served in a spirit of peace and compassion — should be condemned in the strongest possible terms, and the perpetrators must be held accountable," said Jan Kubis, the U.N. representative to Afghanistan.

It was the deadliest insurgent attack against civilians since violence rose after the U.S. invasion that ousted the Taliban in 2001. It exceeded the toll of twin bombings on Dec. 6, 2011, that targeted Shiite Muslims and killed 80 people in Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif.

It was also the first major attack since a weekend deal between the two Afghan presidential contenders, brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, averted a dangerous rift in the country's troubled democracy following last month's disputed runoff. □



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18 dead after Filipino rebels hit tribesmen

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Dozens of communist rebels attacked armed tribesmen, who were later reinforced by army troops, in a southern Philippine province Tuesday, igniting pockets of fighting that killed 18 combatants, military officials said.

It was one of the bloodiest, single-day attacks this year from Marxist insurgency, which has been going for 45 years. New People's Army guerrillas attacked Manobo tribesmen in a village of Prosperidad town in Agusan del Sur province after dawn, sparking a two-hour gunbattle that killed 12 insurgents and four tribesmen, said army Maj. Gen. Ricardo Visaya. Visaya said army troops were deployed to reinforce the tribesmen and block possible escape routes of the guerrillas, igniting more fighting in nearby villages that killed a soldier and another rebel. Army troops tipped off the Manobos about a possible rebel attack, allowing the tribesmen to brace for the battle, he said.

The Maoist guerrillas withdrew into the woods, and army troops, backed by rocket-firing helicopters, pursued them, military officials said. The rebels were trying to recruit the tribesmen, but that turned violent when the tribesmen refused, according to regional military commander Lt. Gen. Rainier Cruz. It was not immediately clear if the fighting was linked to longstanding rivalries over control of small gold-mining activities in parts of Agusan del Sur, about 830 kilometers (515 miles) southeast of Manila. □

Typhoon slams into Philippines; thousands evacuate

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— A typhoon slammed into the northeastern Philippines late Tuesday night, flooding low-lying villages, ripping off roofs and knocking down trees and electric posts in a disaster-prone region where tens of thousands of people fled to safety ahead of the deluge.

Damage from Typhoon Rammasun could not be assessed until daybreak, especially in areas that lost power while being pummeled by the wind and rain. No casualties were immediately reported, though three fishermen were missing in Cebu province.

The fast-moving typhoon made landfall in nearby Albay province while packing sustained winds of 130 kilometers (80 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 160 kph (99 mph). Heading northwest, the storm is forecast to hit Manila, the flood-prone capital of 12 million people, on Wednesday morning.

Polangui Mayor Cherilie

Mella Sampal estimated more than half of the 15,000 to 20,000 houses in her rice-growing town may

topple electric posts and lift roofs off houses. Many fallen trees also blocked roads in her town of 80,000

pal said her townfolk were apprehensive after witnessing the massive devastation and deaths wrought



Residents reinforce their homes built on stilts as they brace for incoming Typhoon Rammasun beside Manila's bay, Philippines on Tuesday, July 15, 2014. Haunted by the memories of Typhoon Haiyan's deadly fury last year, tens of thousands of villagers fled from disaster-prone areas Tuesday as Typhoon Rammasun blew closer toward the northeastern Philippines, where it was expected to hit land at nightfall then barrel its way in the dark across densely-populated regions toward the capital, Manila.

(AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

have been damaged or blown away by the fierce wind and rain that came around nightfall.

As the typhoon raged for about three hours, Sampal said she saw the wind

people, about 10,000 of whom were moved to safety, she said.

While Albay is used to calamities inflicted by storms and Mayon, the country's most active volcano, Sam-

by Typhoon Haiyan in the central Philippines last November.

"We're used to and prepared for calamities," Sampal told The Associated Press by cellphone. □

Jailed Chinese pastor's family escapes to US

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Three members of an imprisoned pastor's family have sneaked out of China to the U.S. with the help of activists after complaining about an extended campaign of harassment by Chinese authorities, a Christian rights group said Tuesday.

Zhang Shaojie's daughter, son-in-law and 1-year-old grandchild landed in Dallas, Texas, on Monday, according to U.S.-based China Aid. The group said an

underground network of activists helped the three leave China via Southeast Asia. Zhang, who led the Nanle County Christian Church in the central province of Henan, was sentenced this month to 12 years in prison on charges of fraud and gathering crowds to disturb public order. Zhang's church is sanctioned by the communist government, which allows worship only in state-monitored groups, but was involved in a dispute with local authorities over land

for a new building. While land disputes are common in China, Zhang's popularity prompted other Christians to rally around him to defend what they say is religious freedom.

China Aid founder Bob Fu said that after Zhang was sentenced, his elderly parents received threats and were harassed, his daughter's car was kept by police and Nanle officials mobilized different government agencies to write to the court to ask for a longer sentence. □

Calls to Nanle police and the press office of the Nanle Communist Propaganda Department rang unanswered. A press officer at the Henan police department said he did not have any information about Zhang Huixin and her family. Fu said Zhang's daughter, Zhang Huixin; her husband, Sun Zhulei; and their daughter, Sun Jiexi, were blocked at Beijing's airport on June 23 from leaving the country by Chinese security officials citing "national security." □

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BRICS nations agree to create own development bank

FORTALEZA, Brazil (AP) — The leaders of five emerging market powers said at a summit Tuesday that they agreed to create a development bank worth \$100 billion that will have its headquarters in China.

The first president of the New Development Bank will be from India and the position will rotate every five years among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — the so-called BRICS nations, a joint statement from the leaders said.

BRICS leaders conferred in a closed session earlier in the day at their conference in northeastern Brazil, then announced concrete plans for the bank at an afternoon session open to the press.

The new bank is seen as a strong push by the BRICS against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which the de-

veloping world has long complained it far too U.S.- and European-centric.

"Based on sound bank-

ing principles, the NDB will strengthen the cooperation among our countries and will supplement the ef-

forts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development," the statement said.



Leaders of the BRICS nations, from left, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, China's President Xi Jinping and South Africa's President Jacob Zuma, pose for a group photo during the BRICS summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, Tuesday, July 15, 2014. The leaders of the BRICS nations are expected to officially create a bailout and development fund worth \$100 billion. It's meant to be an alternative to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which are seen as being dominated by the U.S. and Europe. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the Russian news agency ITAR-Tass that the decision "confirmed that BRICS members, while speaking against unilateral actions in the world economy and politics, are not seeking confrontation but propose working out collective approaches toward the resolution of any problems."

The New Development Bank will have an African regional branch in South Africa and eventually other nations would be able to participate.

The statement also alluded to Brazil's and India's long-standing quest to overhaul the United Nations Security Council, of which China and Russia are two of five permanent members with veto power. Those nations have in the past proved reluctant to endorse Brazil's and India's ambitions, but Tuesday's statement said the BRICS nations "support their aspiration to play a greater role in the U.N."

Though exhaustive, the joint statement largely steered clear of potentially divisive issues, like the conflict in Ukraine between pro-government and pro-Russia factions.

It touched only briefly on the matter, saying the five countries expressed their "deep concern" with the situation in Ukraine and urged "comprehensive dialogue, the de-escalation of the conflict and restraint from all the actors involved, with a view to finding a peaceful political solution, in full compliance with the U.N. Charter and universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms." □

Puerto Rico church abuse case ruling causes outcry

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's justice secretary criticized a Supreme Court decision allowing a Roman Catholic diocese to withhold the names of sex abuse victims who wish to remain private, saying Tuesday it would help the church protect pedophile priests. The court's ruling outraged authorities who are investigating sex abuse allegations against at least 17 priests and eight dioceses in the U.S. territory, where more than 70 percent of residents identify themselves as Catholic.

"Let's not create a sanctuary of impunity," said

Justice Secretary Cesar Miranda. "I thought we were headed into the 21st century. I'm afraid not. We are once again in medieval times."

The Supreme Court on Monday said leaders of the Diocese of Arecibo in northeast Puerto Rico do not need to share information about alleged abuse if the victims are adults who revealed the details during confession or wish to maintain their privacy.

The court stated the diocese must contact possible adult victims and allow them to decide whether to share information about their case with prosecutors. It said information

that those victims provided through a confession is considered confidential and does not have to be shared. If the information was not shared during a confession, a lower court must decide whether the government can obtain the information through other means.

If the alleged abuse involves victims younger than 18, however, the court said the diocese must share information with prosecutors. Arecibo Bishop Daniel Fernandez celebrated the court's decision, particularly regarding the privacy of confession.

"It is essential for us that the court has recognized

that when a person seeks a priest to reveal a personal matter, that communication is protected by absolute confidentiality," he said. The diocese has defrocked six priests over abuse allegations, one of whom faces criminal charges of committing lewd acts. It had filed suit against Miranda in February, arguing it should not have to turn over information to prosecutors that would reveal the identities of the alleged victims.

Miranda said prosecutors will continue their investigation and that he will consider whether to ask the court to reconsider its decision. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

RBC Art Rules Aruba Receives Two thumbs Up from Sponsors, Partners



ORANJESTAD -- Art Rules Aruba unfolding at Cas Di Cultura for its second week received sponsors, partners and supporters for a courtesy visit showcasing the artistic accomplishments of the students enrolled in various programs such as DJ, Music & Performance, Dance, Theater, Culinary Arts, Fashion, Creative Media and a special Art Rules Junior, for 9-12 year olds.

RBC Royal Bank's Art Rules Aruba Kicked off in full capacity with a record number of applicants, 270, on Saturday, July 5th, confirming that local youth loves Art education! In 2010, The Pancake Gallery Foundation, with twin sisters Ira and Ayra Kip at the helm, started offering the educational Art program during the summer months. That same pro-

gram, is now celebrating its 5th anniversary. Over the course of the last four years, the program has seen more than 600 young aspiring artists, all local teenagers between the ages of 13 and 26, who possess a passion for the Arts and the will to develop personal talents. Since 2010, Art Rules Aruba has brought more than 54 international artists and teachers from around the world to the Island to teach art in several disciplines. Starting with 6 disciplines 5 years ago, Art Rules has since grown into offering 9 art disciplines this year. Representatives of RBC Bank, the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino, Hertz Rent a Car, the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, AAA - Aeropuerto Reina Beatrix, SNS Reaal Fonds, Starbucks Coffee,



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day morning. Art Rules Aruba will close with a "Tasting Competition" in collaboration with Aruba Marriott on July 17th introduced by the Culinary Arts Students, followed by the final showcase of all students at Cas di Cultura on July 18th, with tickets available this whole week, and at the door.

After the closing of the program, The Pancake Gallery will make a swift transition to Curaçao as it will be debuting Art Rules Curaçao on July 21st. This is the first step in expanding the program in the Caribbean region, which has become the goal for its founders with the aim of advancing art education everywhere, including Surinam, for a possible Art Rules Paramaribo in the near future.

For more information on Art Rules, its past, present and future updates, visit www.artrulesaruba.com or www.artrulescuracao.com or follow its social platforms via [@artrulesU](https://www.facebook.com/artrulesaruba) on twitter and [@artrulesflicks](https://www.instagram.com/artrulesflicks) on instagram □



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You too can join the Jolly Pirates in creating awareness by wearing Bracelet Trios

HADICURARI - Aruba's Marine Park Foundation in co-operation with the island's popular water sports operators, Jolly Pirates have implemented an especially worthy "Protect the Reefs bracelet" program.

The simple concept of a set of three awareness bracelets has been initiated to develop more reef care awareness and educational programs in Aruba.

You can feel good knowing that 100% of your \$15.00 donation towards the attractive bracelet trios will show your support for the Marine Park Foundation.

The attractive bracelets can be used as a special gift or as an Aruba souvenir.

This joint venture was first created between the Marine Park Foundation and the Jolly Pirates for their concerns for healthy reefs, vital for their guests to continue to enjoy year



after year by developing further awareness for Reef Care programs and the healthier implementation of a new system for public moorings.

We would like to encourage more to show their support and interest in the Marine Park Foundation. A special thank you to those who made donations and wear your Jolly Pirates Awareness Bracelets!

You can feel good knowing that your donations are being used well! If you wish to help create more Awareness for the project, you can make a

donation and wear one of the Save the Reef – bracelets for yourself. Bracelets also make great souvenir gifts and can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates Souvenir shop located at MooMba Beach.□



The More Family loves to drink Balashi beers at Salt & Pepper



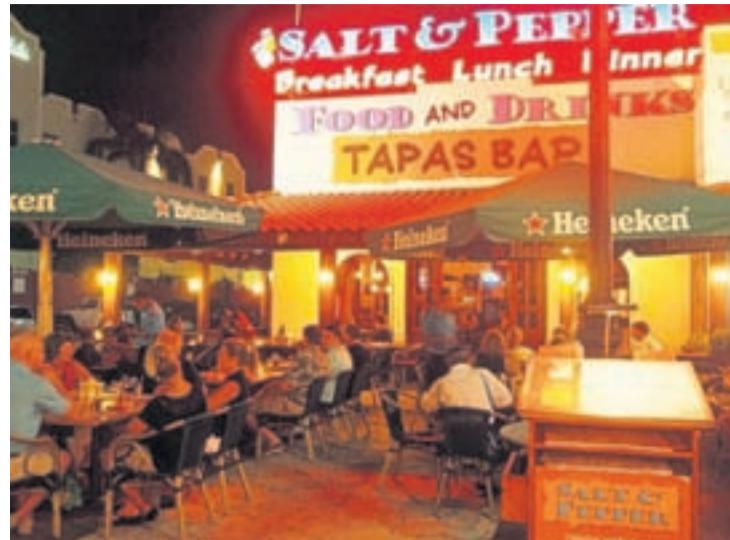
PALM BEACH - Balashi beer is the favorite beverage of James Moore and his wife. The relaxed couple finds the bottles really small, though, so they always order two per person per round of drinks and they crack jokes every time they visit Salt & Pepper restaurant at the Arawak Garden, where they are most welcome

guests. Asked why they chose Salt & Pepper as their favorite restaurant, James says: "We were just tired and wanted to sit down somewhere". Yeah, right! James and his wife often select Salt & Pepper's daily specials during their holiday; they ask the staff to advise them and they

are always happy with their choice.

The two have been visiting the island thirty times or more, so they know the place inside-out.

Salt & Pepper would like to say 'thank you' to James and his wife for the many fun times they have had and hopes to see them back many more times. □



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At Palm Beach Plaza Mall:

First Mussels of the Season at Taste of Belgium Restaurant



PALM BEACH - Although it might look like mussels are harvested from the fountain at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall in the photo, in reality they are flown in, dripping wet, from Zeeland in the South of Holland and

the north of Belgium. The mussel season is starting tomorrow on Aruba, when Taste of Belgium Restaurant is the first to offer this healthy delicacy, which is chockfull of vitamins and minerals.

The mussels are served in three ways: in beer

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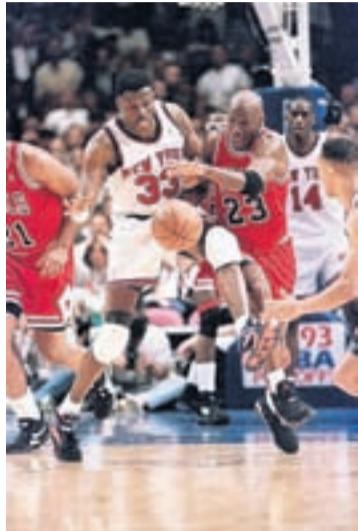


(cooked in Stella Artois and served with three sauces, French fries and a salad) for \$ 34.50, in white wine (cooked in Chardonnay and served with three sauces, French fries and a salad) for \$ 32.50 and as a Chef's Special (cooked in your choice of Belgian beer and served with French fries, garlic bread, three sauces and a choice of mixed vegetables or a salad) for \$48.50. Mussel lovers will be overjoyed that it's that time of the year again. As the season is always shorter than you might think, go to Taste of Belgium right away and enjoy!□

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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

In this June 3, 1993, file photo, Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan, right, and New York Knicks' Patrick Ewing chase a loose ball during the second half of game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals in New York.

Associated Press

Balanced NBA field will make title chase tougher

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Patrick Ewing sees the parallels between then and now. For 13 straight seasons, Ewing averaged at least 20 points. He was a superstar, the toast of New York, the city's biggest star when he was the face of the Knicks' franchise. During the stretch when Ewing was at his peak, his combination of points, rebounds and blocked shots made him unquestionably one of the game's elite.

"When I played, it was mostly one superstar per team," Ewing said.

And that, in the end, was a problem for Ewing. For as good as he was — not to mention the likes of Charles Barkley, Dominique Wilkins, George Gervin and many others — his enormous talent never carried him to an NBA championship.

Continued on Next Page

PAR FOR THE COURSE



Woods still aiming high at Open

Tiger Woods of the US plays a shot on the 15th hole during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Tuesday July 15, 2014. The British Open starts on Thursday July 17.

Associated Press
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Dwyane Wade re-signs with Miami Heat

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

Dwyane Wade is staying with the Miami Heat, and his latest deal is designed to give both the player and the only franchise he's ever known some flexibility in the coming years.

Wade signed a new contract with the Heat on Tuesday. It's a two-year deal, the second of those seasons a player option, said a person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side announced terms.

"I am proud to have spent every single day of my career as a member of the Miami Heat and to have brought three championship titles to this great city," Wade said in a statement. "I've been here through the good times and the hard times. I have confidence in the Miami Heat organization and the team they are building."

Earlier Tuesday, Wade tweeted "Home Is Where The Heart Is... My Home, My City, My House" and attached a photo of himself standing below the three NBA championship ban-



In this June 14, 2014 file photo, Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade smiles as he is asked a question during a media availability for the NBA basketball finals in San Antonio.

Associated Press

ners that hang at Miami's home arena.

Financial terms were not announced, though it's expected Wade's salary for next season will not reach the \$20.2 million he would have made under his previous contract.

Heat President Pat Riley confirmed that Wade again bought into the Heat mantra of sacrifice. The contract he signed four years ago left millions on the bargaining-room table, in part to make the deals with LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Udonis Haslem

happen.

"Dwyane has been the franchise cornerstone for this team since the day he arrived 11 years ago," Riley said. "He has shown his commitment to the Heat many times over the course of his career and has always been willing to sacrifice in order to help build this team into a champion. This time is no different." Wade's return was expected, yet still represents a huge win for Miami during free agency — especially since it comes less than a week after James left the

Heat after four seasons and returned to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

So now, what was the "Big 3" is a "Big 2." Bosh is in the process of finishing a \$118 million, five-year contract with Miami.

Also Tuesday, the Heat signed Luol Deng to a two-year, \$20 million deal, which was agreed to over the weekend.

"Luol Deng is one of the most important free agent signings that we have ever had in the history of the franchise," Riley said. "He is a proven All-Star and quintessential team player, both as a scorer, as well as an All-NBA defender. He brings the attitude of a warrior and competes every single night against the very, very best."

Miami also announced the signing of small forward James Ennis, who has been one of the team's summer-league standouts this year. Ennis was the 50th pick in the 2013 draft and spent last season playing in Australia.

Wade is entering his 12th Heat season and is the franchise's all-time leader in games, points, assists and steals. He and Haslem,

who is also expected to complete a new two-year contract with Miami in the coming days, are the only players to appear on all three of the Heat teams that won NBA championships in 2006, 2012 and 2013.

He was limited to 54 games last season, in large part because of a maintenance program designed to limit wear and tear on his knees.

But when he was on the floor, he was effective — shooting a career best 54.5 percent and averaging 19.0 points.

With James gone, Wade likely won't have the luxury of resting as much this season.

He's averaged 24.3 points for his career, 16th-best in NBA history and fifth-best among active players with at least seven seasons. And only seven other players in league history have as many points (17,481), rebounds (3,605), assists (4,301), steals (1,262) and blocked shots (696) as Wade has posted so far in his career.

Wade could have lobbied for more money or insisted on more years. □



Lebron James shoots a free throw while playing with high school students during the Lebron James Skills Academy Wednesday, July 9, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

in San Antonio, and plenty of teams with two players worthy of at least superstar argument, there's nothing now that can mirror what the Heat had when James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh were teammates. James' latest decision also gives Cleveland a better chance to win a title. But like Ewing, Barkley and

plenty of others know, a more-balanced playing field across the NBA means many other teams figure to have a better chance as well.

"There's a lot of money being given today and there's a lot of teams with more great players than there were in the past," said Paul Silas, James' first coach in Cleveland.

"I like seeing that. I really like to see the teams fight against each other and having more than one have a chance to win the whole thing."

Welcome to the new NBA. Or, rather, the updated NBA.

Sure, 16 teams go to the playoffs, but really, how many were legitimate title contenders last season? The entire season a year ago seemed like Indiana and Miami were preordained to meet in

the Eastern Conference finals — and that's exactly what happened. James changes sides, a few other moves get made, and now there's probably a half-dozen teams in the East alone thinking they'll be good enough to be one of the last two teams standing next June.

Ask NBA executives, many of whom aren't upset to see Miami's stranglehold as East favorites come to an end, and they say it's all a good thing for the game.

"Much more competitive this year," Knicks President Phil Jackson said. "The East last year, I thought until the very end when the Knicks made a run, Toronto got going, Washington got going, there were a lot of teams languishing under or around .500. But I think this year, more talent's spread around the East and I think it's going to be very com-

petitive."

The comparison might be what happened 20 years ago. Chicago was playing without Michael Jordan, who was beginning his retirement to play baseball, so the Bulls' three-year run as NBA champions was widely expected to end. San Antonio's David Robinson and Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal were the league's best two scorers that season, and neither made it out of the first round of the playoffs.

Ewing and the Knicks found their way past the Bulls — still plenty good with Scottie Pippen — and into the NBA Finals, where the MVP that season, Hakeem Olajuwon, was waiting.

The Rockets were deeper. They won in seven games, denying Ewing what was his best chance at that ring. The lesson: Even superstars know the best team probably gets it done. □

Continued from Page 17

He sees the league heading back that way now. When LeBron James left Miami last week for a return to the Cleveland Cavaliers, the power structure of the league shifted as well. And while there's obviously a team loaded with future Hall of Famers

Nibali now strong favorite to win Tour de France



Overall leader Vincenzo Nibali of Italy pedals during a training near Besancon, eastern France, Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

Associated Press

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

BESANCON, France (AP) —

With defending champion Chris Froome and two-time winner Alberto Contador out of the race, the path is wide open for Vincenzo Nibali to become the first Italian to win the Tour de France since the late Marco Pantani in 1998.

The French have waited even longer for a champion — the last was Bernard Hinault way back in 1985 — but with three riders in the top six places, hopes are growing of at least a first podium place since climber Richard Virenque finished second in 1997.

After Tuesday's rest day, the race resumes with Stage 11 on Wednesday, followed by arduous mountain stages on Friday and Saturday which will reveal the genuine contenders.

These are where Nibali's climbing skills could set him apart, and give him a chance to fully stamp his authority on the race.

There are five days of hard climbing ahead, starting with Friday's 197.5-kilometer (122.4-mile) trek from Saint-Etienne to Chamrousse, which ends with a huge ascent of 18 kilometers (11.2 miles).

As for Nibali's rivals, Contador broke his shin in a violent fall in Monday's 10th stage and Froome pulled out on stage 5 with a bro-

ken wrist.

"I'm not happy about what happened to Alberto and Chris," the 29-year-old Nibali said. "The climbs would have been better and more spectacular for everyone."

Nibali, who won the Spanish Vuelta in 2010 and the Giro d'Italia in 2013, is 2 minutes, 23 seconds ahead of Australian Richie Porte and 2:47 clear of Spaniard Alejandro Valverde, who won the Vuelta five years ago. Three Frenchmen are within four minutes of Nibali — Romain Bardet, Tony Gallopin and Thibaut Pinot. None has come close to a podium place on a Grand Tour, although the 23-year-old Bardet and the 24-year-old Pinot have strong climbing skills.

"We've got to stay calm and study the situation," Nibali said. "The danger can come from anywhere."

Porte rode as a key support rider for Froome last year on the Sky team, but now has free reign to attack.

"Porte goes well in the climbs, he goes well in time trials, you have to keep a good distance on him," Nibali said. "You have to watch Valverde, he can attack at any time."

The 34-year-old Valverde was handed a two-year suspension in 2010 for his involvement in the Operation Puerto doping plot, which involved dozens of riders over secretly stored

blood bags.

Like Nibali, Pantani was a courageous cyclist who loved to attack in the

tough climbs.

Pantani was found dead in a hotel room on Valentine's Day in 2004 and a coroner ruled he died from cocaine poisoning. Nibali has one of Pantani's yellow jerseys at home, a gift from Pantani's mother to mark the 10th anniversary of his death. "It would be a great honour to follow on from him," said Nibali.

Friday's stage will also be special for Nibali because it marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of two-time Tour champion Gino Bartali, who died in 2000 at the age of 85.

"As an Italian, it's a huge privilege to be asked about Bartali. I grew up watching documentaries on the big riders, the big wins of (Felice) Gimondi, Bartali and (Fausto) Cop-

pi," Nibali said. "They're all in the encyclopedia of cycling. There are others like Hinault, too. They've written the history of cycling."

The last French heyday came in the 1980s when Hinault, a five-time champion, competed against Laurent Fignon, who won in '83 and '84.

Wednesday's stage is a 187.5-kilometer (116.3-mile) route in eastern France from Besancon to Oyonnax and features four small climbs. Veteran Fabian Cancellara won't be among the starters.

The 33-year-old Swiss cyclist has pulled out to focus on the Road World Championships in Ponferrada, Spain, from Sept. 21-28.

Cancellara withdrew prior to the start of the 11th Tour stage in 2012. □

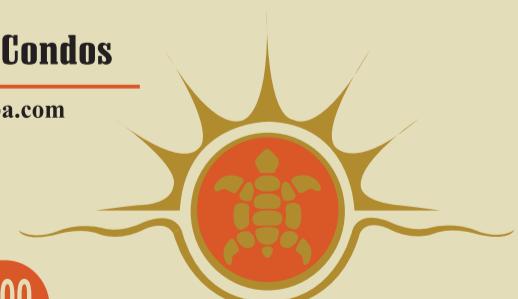
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British Open: a new golf course, a new Tiger Woods

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAKE, England (AP) —

Tiger Woods was an hour into his practice round Tuesday at the British Open when he stood on the fifth tee with a foreign object in his hand.

In golf vernacular, it's called a driver.

Woods smashed it into the wind on the 528-yard hole and didn't need to watch where it landed to realize it was in the middle of the fairway. Later in the round, he hit another driver off the tee. That's twice as many than he hit over 72 holes when he won at Royal Liverpool eight years ago.

"This is a different golf course when what we played in '06," Woods said. "It was hot, ball was flying. It was very dusty. Now we're making ball marks on the greens, which we weren't doing then."

So much has changed in so many areas.

Royal Liverpool, green and thick this time around, is still a firm and bouncy test



Tiger Woods of the US looks down the 5th fairway prior to teeing off during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Tuesday July 15, 2014. The British Open starts on Thursday July 17.

Associated Press

Rio Olympic golf rankings start this week

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — If

the world ranking looks just like this in two years, Adam Scott would be headed to Rio for the Olympics as the No. 1 player in the world and so would Roope Kakko of Finland at No. 287.

The ranking is certain to change next week, let alone two years from now. But starting this week, the International Golf Federation will be publishing a weekly "Olympic ranking" to show movement as players try to make the team. The 60-player field for men and women will be based entirely on the world ranking, with the cutoff on July 11, 2016.

That depends, of course, on whether an eligible player agrees to participate.

Players from the top 15 are guaranteed a spot in the

Rio games, provided there are no more than four players from each country. For the Americans, those four would include Bubba Watson, Matt Kuchar, Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth, while excluding the likes of Jim Furyk at No. 11 in the world. After the top 15, the field will be filled with no more than two players from each country. One player from the host country (Brazil) is promised a spot, and players representing countries in the five continental units recognized by the International Olympic Committee must be there. The 2016 Olympics are scheduled for Aug. 5-21 in Rio. It will mark the return of golf for the first time since 2004.

Of greater concern is the golf course for the Olympics.

After what seems like endless delays, IGF vice president Ty Votaw said sodding has begun, with a plan to use grass springs and sodding for the remaining holes.

"Our plan is to have all of the grassing completed by late October, early November of this year," Votaw said.

If the schedule is met — Votaw put the onus on the landowner-developer dedicating all resources necessary — he said that would give architect Gil Hanse and his team two full growing seasons for the grass to present what Votaw called "optimum conditions" for the Olympic competition.

Votaw said there would be a test event ahead of the Olympics, though he declined to say what it would be or when.

of links golf. But it's nothing as it was in 2006, when the fairways were so baked and brown that Woods hit only one driver in four rounds. That was on the 16th hole of the first round, and the ball wound up in the 17th fairway. He still made birdie.

But it's not just the golf course.

Woods is not the same player, having gone through three operations since — two on his left knee, the most recent surgery March 31 on his back. He used to win majors at a rate slightly better than one per year. Now he has gone six years without, dating to his 14th at Torrey Pines in the 2008 U.S. Open.

And the biggest change might be the guys who are trying to beat him.

Even though Woods is coming off a five-win season, he no longer is the strongest, biggest or longest player. Nineteen players have won majors since his last one.

"I think it gets harder every year just because the field gets deeper — more guys with a chance to win. What did we have, 16, 17 straight first-time winners?" Woods said, referring to one stretch when there were no repeat champions in 16 straight majors. "It's getting harder to win. The margin is so much smaller. It's only going to continue to be the case. Guys are going to get longer. They're going to get faster. Guys who are coming out here are bigger, stronger, faster, more athletic."

Woods used to be among the longest. He is 38 now, and the latest reminder of how much golf has changed was on Sunday while playing with Gary Woodland, who gave up baseball and basketball to concentrate on golf. The ball makes a different sound coming off Woodland's club, as it once did for Woods.

"I walked around with Gary Woodland on Sunday and he said, 'Yeah, I finally found a driver and a ball I can hit 320 again in the air'" Woods said, pausing

to let those numbers sink in. "Yeah. In the air. So the game has changed a lot since then."

There is one change that most agree is for the better. At least Woods is playing. The sport's star attraction is playing a major championship for the first time this year. The back surgery to relieve an impinged nerve caused him to miss the Masters for the first time, and then the U.S. Open. He returned three weeks ago at Congressional and missed the cut, though Woods was more excited that he played pain free.

"Tiger Woods has been the face of our game for nearly 20 years," Rory McIlroy said. "So to have him playing, have him back, is important. It's a good opportunity for some of the other guys to stand up and be counted and win tournaments, either in his absence or if he's coming back and isn't quite back to 100 percent form."

That's already been happening. In a most peculiar season, the PGA Tour already has produced 10 winners who were not among the top 100 in the world. And only four players in 35 tournaments have been in the top 10.

Woods acknowledged how different 2006 was in other ways. His father had just died two months earlier, and he had missed the cut in a major for the first time in the U.S. Open before going to Hoylake. He sobbed on the 18th green on the shoulder of his caddie, Steve Williams, whom he since fired, and tearfully embraced his wife, from whom he is now divorced. There have been game changes, life changes. Nothing is what it once seemed.

Woods finds inspiration not so much from his last victory at Hoylake, but the last major he won.

He had not played a competitive round in two months because of injury — shattered ligaments in his knee and a double stress fracture in his leg.



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With hitting down, should MLB lower the mound?

Mound?

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Major League Baseball has a problem: Clayton Kershaw, Aroldis Chapman, Felix Hernandez and all the other kings of the hill are just too good.

Ruling with an assortment of big-bending curveballs, sharp sliders and 100 mph (160 kph) heat, a new generation of pitchers has thrown major league hitters into a huge slump.

The spike in strikeouts, the dip in home runs, and worries that the game is becoming boring for fans reminds some people of 1968, when Bob Gibson, Denny McLain and their fellow aces dominated.

Back then, the league came up with a radical solution: The pitcher's mound was lowered from 15 inches (38 centimeters) to 10 inches (25) and the strike zone was reduced.

Combined with the addition of four expansion teams, the result was an 11-point increase in the big league batting average in 1969 and a 19 percent rise in runs.

Should MLB drop the mound again?

"I don't know, man, maybe if they keep going like this," Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton said on Monday at the All-Star festivities.

"Move the mound back 5 feet," he added with a chuckle.

There's some thought that reducing the mound would combat the outbreak of blown-out elbows, which has seen stars such as Stephen Strasburg, Matt Harvey and Jose Fernandez needing reconstructive sur-

gery, and could also claim Masahiro Tanaka.

With low-run games again in vogue and defensive shifts taking away hits, there's been more emphasis on small ball. That's prompted questions about whether this is a cyclical change, or if this style is here to stay.

From his vantage point in the New York Mets' broadcast booth, former National League MVP Keith Hernandez has an unusual analysis and an equally drastic solution.

"They should get rid of four teams," he said. "Too many players. There's too much dilution of talent. The pitching's not better. It's the same."

"The residuals of steroids and aluminum bats have affected how they taught kids how to hit, and now we're seeing normal bodies, and balls that used to get out of the ballpark are caught now."

It wasn't too long ago that batters had the edge. The boom years peaked in 2000 with an average of 1.17 home runs per team per game. The runs average of 5.14 was MLB's highest since 1936.

But offense has steadily shrunk — as have the players — as MLB implemented testing for doping and then repeatedly strengthened those rules.

And with complete games virtually a relic, hard-throwing relievers dominate the late innings. Radar guns routinely register mph (kph) readings around triple digits.

"Everybody's throwing 109, so you don't get to see the starters for your fourth turn (at bat)," said Atlanta Braves manager Fredi



top, is shown pitching during the second game of the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium in St. Louis in the Oct. 3, 1968, file photo, while National League's Clayton Kershaw, bottom, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, pitches during the second inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game in the July 16, 2013, file photo, in New York. The spike in strikeouts, the dip in home runs and worries that the game is becoming boring for fans reminds some people of 1968, when Bob Gibson, Denny McLain and their fellow aces dominated.

Associated Press

Gonzalez, exaggerating only slightly. "There's a lot of guys in the bullpen that are special guys."

All those fast balls have contributed to more than two dozen pitchers needing Tommy John surgery this year.

Dr. David Altchek, the Mets' top physician, said a lower mound "should decrease the force as the body gets less far ahead of the arm.

As the body falls down the mound, the arm momentarily lags and forces at the elbow cumulate."

But Glenn Fleisig of the American Sports Medicine Institute counters that recent studies disagree whether lowering or eliminating the mound would slightly cut or slightly increase the stress on an adolescent pitcher's arm. "Reducing the amount of

competitive pitching is the most strongly proven action for reducing the risk of pitching injuries," he said. This much is certain: The MLB batting average is down to .252 this year, according to STATS. It hasn't been that low since 1972, the year before the American League adopted the designated hitter.

Teams are averaging a full one run less per game, with the 4.14 scoring average MLB's lowest since 1992, just before the spread of better hitting through doping.

There's a lot less contact, too: Teams average 7.70 strikeouts per game, on track to set a record for the eighth straight season and up more than 60 percent from 1981's 4.75.

From the seventh inning on, MLB resembles the 1960s, the greatest era for pitchers since the lively ball days began in 1920. The .241 batting average in the late innings is the lowest since STATS' records began in 1974, and teams are averaging just 1.30 runs — not much incentive to keep fans in stadiums or watching their televisions.

"The real 'solution' here is to ban setup men and closers," ESPN commentator Keith Olbermann said.

Change comes slowly in MLB; widespread instant replay for umpires began only this year.

"I would be reluctant to lower the mound further," said John Thorn, MLB's official historian, "as this might be using a sledgehammer to swat a fly."

Ever cautious, the new players' union head Tony Clark says the time to consider such a step is "too far off right now." □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Foods made from wheat and other grains are staples in North American and European diets. We have been programmed to have grain products be our diet foundation. Shifting our eating habits towards breads and other processed flour products has been easier for government agencies and the food industry to manage. Less refined grains, often in combination, as with granola cereals and whole wheat breads fortified with bran, coarse flours, and other additives are now eaten in large quantities because they have been presented as 'health' foods. Unfortunately, wheat and its close relatives, barley, rye and oats have been proven to cause health problems in the diets of many people. Wheat intolerance or allergies rank second only to milk allergies when we review our patient's medical complaints. It could be that in the Bible's Luke 4:4, which says: "Not on bread alone shall man be living, but on every declaration of God", has relevance in today's world. By the way, the bread of this time was usually made from

the less offensive, whole grain millet, not wheat.

Grains are popular foods because of their ability to react with live yeast to form the rising or lightness and taste. The component that allows this reaction to take place is proteins in the grains collectively called "gluten". The cereal grains, wheat, rye, oats and barley all contain similar proteins. In many people, especially in individuals with blood types O and A, gluten reacts by exciting our immune responses especially in the gastrointestinal tract. In other words, many people are allergic to gluten. Grains can present many other problems including negative reactions to the grain contaminated with pesticides, preservatives, and molds. But, that will be another article.

Celiac Disease is the best-recognized form of gluten allergy and is also called gluten intolerance. Actually, I am not the only medical professional who believes that every person with type O blood is gluten intolerant and, thus, on the waiting list to develop type II diabetes. Symptoms of celiac disease can range from diarrhea, weight loss, and malnutrition, to isolated nutrient deficiencies with no gastrointestinal symptoms. The disease is thought to be highest among people of Northern European descent, but we now know

that it also affects Hispanic, Black and Asian populations equally as well. Those affected suffer damage to their intestines when they eat specific food-grain antigens that are found in wheat, rye, barley or oats.

The gastrointestinal tract is the primary target organ; however hidden symptoms may show as irritable bowel syndrome with iron deficiency anemia, with little or no diarrhea. Dr. Kelly, of the Boston University Hospital, in a clinic pathological review of celiac disease stated that: "...there is increasing evidence that most people with gluten sensitivity have latent celiac disease with such mild manifestations (in the digestive tract) that the diagnosis is never made.

Wheat intolerance or allergies are associated with a variety of autoimmune disorders, carcinomas of the gastrointestinal tract and lymphomas. Increased incidences of diabetes, autoimmune thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, vasculitis, pulmonary fibrosis, encephalopathy and cerebellar atrophy have been reported in celiac patients. This is serious stuff. This relationship re-stated as simple as possible says "cereal grains cause cancer"! Now, the implications are more easily understood.

We have had patients with inflammatory arthritis that improved

dramatically when we removed milk and grain products, especially wheat, from their diet. The occurrence of pain in joints, particularly the hands, with slight swelling, stiffness and loss of mobility is the early presentation of allergic arthritis; can occur strictly as a manifestation of gluten allergy.

High cholesterol, skin disorders, obesity and its dangerous health consequences can all be effects of wheat allergies. If any of these symptoms are a problem, a visit to your clinical nutritionist could help you safely change your diet and regain your optimal health.

Get the Point! We have known about the disease bearing consequences of eating wheat and other grains for years already. Why have you not been informed by public health organizations? What about fiber? Brown (whole grain) rice, which is not known to cause health problems in any blood type is full of nutritious B Vitamins and eaten daily, keeps your colon clean and healthy. If you want to check what food and chemical intolerances are negatively affecting your good looks and health, check in with a Certified Clinical Nutritionist or holistic physician trained in nutrition. Who knows, the bread or the cancer you avoid might be yours.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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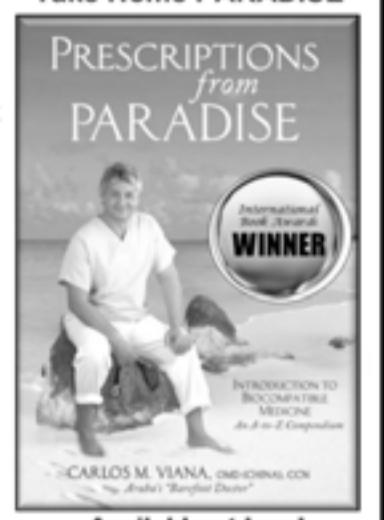

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Drones: Next big thing in aviation is small

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The next big thing in aviation may be really small.

With some no bigger than a hummingbird, the hottest things at this week's Farnborough International Airshow are tiny compared with the titans of the sky, such as the Airbus 380 or the Boeing Dreamliner.

What's got aviation geeks salivating at Farnborough, this year's biggest aviation jamboree that features participants from 40 countries, are the commercial possibilities of unmanned aerial vehicles — drones to most of us.

Drones are more commonly known for their use in conflict areas. This week Hamas launched for the first time an unmanned drone into Israeli airspace that was shot down.

But drones, which can weigh less than an ounce, have potential commercial applications that are vast. The industry, military and non-military, is growing and could according to some see investments of nearly \$90 billion over the next ten years.

Experts say they can be adapted to fly over fields to determine when crops need watering, fly into clouds in hopes of offering more precise predictions on twisters, track endangered rhinos, spot wildfires and search out vast stretches of land for missing children.

And like the dawn of the era of aviation a little over a century ago, innovations are often being conducted by individuals with an idea and endless enthusiasm. They won't find it easy though as the big players in the markets, such as Boeing and Airbus, are also getting involved.

A lot of the research has been taking place in big flat places such as the Plains States, where a broad expanse of land combines with universities near military bases with air space exclusions to make research possible.

Where California had Silicon Valley to drive its high-



An AeroVironment Shrike vertical take-off and landing small unmanned aircraft system is displayed at the AeroVironment stand during Farnborough International Air Show, Farnborough, England, Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

tech industries, America's central belt from North Dakota to Texas could become a new research and commercial center for the aviation industry — the Silicon Plains.

"This is open country for entrepreneurs," said Stephen McKeever, Oklahoma's secretary of science and technology. "There will be a Steve Jobs."

But things are a bit on hold at the moment for the American makers of unmanned air vehicles, or UAVs, as they await rules from the Federal Aviation Administration. Under current rules, you can legally fly drones for "recreational purposes," as long as you comply with certain basic guidelines — such as keeping well clear of airports. Commercial operations are only allowed with special authorization, a cumbersome process that the government intends to streamline. Once they are able to do this, McKeever suggests the situation will be akin to the land rush that sent land-hungry settlers scurrying to his state in 1889.

The FAA is developing regulations to permit the widespread commercial use of drones while protecting privacy and preventing interference with larger aircraft. As part of this process, the FAA in Decem-

ber selected six test sites around the country where research on drones will be conducted in a variety of environments.

North Dakota is one of them, and Brian Opp, manager of aerospace business development for the

North Dakota Department of Commerce, is at Farnborough, promoting the virtues of the weather. In other words, if your drone can work in the midst of a freezing North Dakota winter or its scorching summer, it will work anywhere.

Associated Press

"That's good news for us," Opp said cheerfully. The Teal Group, which offers analysis of the aviation industry, estimates that \$89.1 billion will be spent on drones in the next decade, the bulk of which will still be military.

Philip Finnegan, director of corporate analysis for the group, said commercial UAVs need to test to see what is possible.

"It's pretty clear it will work, but it's going to depend on application, and at this point the companies can't even test that," said Finnegan.

Areas such as the Great Plains will face tough completion, not least from Australia, where regulators have been more forgiving of research than their U.S. counterparts. Japan, also, is a big user of drones, particularly in agriculture. When, and if, the U.S. regulations relax, companies, such as AeroVironment of Monrovia, California, which have been making military drones, have said they are ready to pounce.

Novartis to use Google technology for eye care

The Associated Press
Swiss drug developer Novartis will team with technology giant Google to develop a "smart" contact lens that could improve some eye conditions or help diabetics manage their disease. Terms of the agreement between the companies were not detailed in a statement released Tuesday by Novartis. The drugmaker said its Alcon eye care division will license Google technology and work with a team from Google to develop a lens that uses microchips and miniaturized electronics. Novartis is focused on developing a contact lens that can provide a continuous measurement of glucose levels in diabetic patients by measuring tear fluid.



This undated photo released by Google shows a contact lens Google is testing to explore tear glucose.

Associated Press

It also said the lens has the potential to help restore the eye's natural auto focus on near objects for patients with presbyopia who can no longer read without glasses. Presbyopia is a condition where the eye loses its ability to focus.

"This is a key step for us to go beyond the confines of traditional disease management, starting with the eye," Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez said in a statement.

Stocks mostly down as investors digest earnings

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

The Federal Reserve's latest take on the U.S. economy put many investors into sell mode Tuesday, sending stocks mostly lower after a brief upward turn early in the day.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen, speaking before Congress, said the U.S. economy has yet to recover fully, but raised the possibility the central bank could raise its key short-term interest rate sooner than currently projected.

The Fed also issued a report noting that valuations for stocks in some sectors, such as social media and biotech firms, appear to be stretched, sending shares in Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn lower.

By suggesting some stocks could be overvalued, the Fed is adding to a growing belief among some market watchers that stocks are due for a pullback, said Drew Wilson, an equity analyst at Fenimore Asset Management.

"In this type of environment when you have a lot of uncertainty, essentially you have this equilibrium that's looking to be broken one way or another, and the Fed chair saying 'financial bubble' could do that," Wilson said.

Investors had plenty more to consider, including a mostly encouraging batch of corporate earnings and economic data.

The major U.S. financial

market indexes were up slightly in premarket trading as JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs and Johnson & Johnson released quarterly results that exceeded Wall Street's expectations. Separate reports on U.S. retail sales and manufacturing growth also gave the

stocks finished the day mixed, with the Dow Jones industrial average eking out a tiny gain on the day. The Dow added 5.26 points, or 0.03 percent, to 17,060.68. The index is down slightly from its July 3 record of 17,068.65. The Standard & Poor's 500

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at 2.55 percent. Several tech stocks surged in after-market trading Tuesday. Intel jumped \$1.37, or 4.3 percent, to \$33.08 after reporting strong second-quarter earnings and an



Trader Kevin Lodewick works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Federal Reserve's latest take on the U.S. economy put many investors into sell mode Tuesday, sending stocks mostly lower after a brief upward turn early in the day.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

market an early lift. But stock indexes diverged shortly after the market opened and then fully veered into the red about an hour into regular trading as investors began to tune into Yellen delivering the central bank's semi-annual economic report to Congress.

index fell 3.82 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,973.28. The index is down 0.6 percent from its most recent all-time high of 1,985.44 set July 3. The Nasdaq composite shed 24.03 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,416.39. The three stock indexes are all up for the year. Bond prices barely budged.

increase to its stock buy-back program. Apple and IBM rose after the former rivals announced they are teaming up to work on mobile applications in a bid to sell more iPhones and iPads to corporate customers. Apple rose \$1.74, or 1.8 percent, to \$97.06 in extended trading.

J&J 2Q profit climbs 13 percent on new-drug sales

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP Business Writer

Strong sales of several new drugs, particularly its hot new hepatitis medicine, lifted Johnson & Johnson's second-quarter profit by 13 percent, topping analysts' expectations.

The world's biggest maker of health care products raised its 2014 profit forecast for the second time since January, again up by a nickel to a new range of \$5.85 to \$5.92 per share, excluding one-time items. Still, J&J shares fell in mid-day trading after company

officials cited two drags on second-half revenue: the June 30 sale of its Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics business for about \$4 billion, and expected new competition for Olysio, J&J's new treatment for chronic hepatitis C. In midday trading, shares were down \$1.71, or 1.6 percent, at \$103.67. J&J on Tuesday reported earnings increased to \$4.33 billion, or \$1.51 per share, from \$3.83 billion, or \$1.33 per share, a year earlier. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring litigation and other costs, came to \$1.66 per

share. Analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research expected \$1.54 per share, on average. The maker of Band-Aids, medical devices and biologic drugs said revenue rose 9.1 percent to \$19.5 billion from \$17.88 billion a year ago. Analysts expected \$18.85 billion. The company "seems to have turned the corner on its string of unpleasant surprises, and is delivering mostly positive surprises," said Erik Gordon, a professor and analyst at University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

The New Brunswick, New Jersey-based company said prescription drug sales rose 21 percent to \$8.51 billion. That was led by Olysio, at \$831 million in the quarter, as well as Xarelto for preventing heart attacks and strokes (\$361 million) and Zytiga for prostate cancer (\$562 million). J&J's two newer drugs for rheumatoid arthritis and other immune system disorders, Simponi and Stelara, both grew by more than 40 percent, lifting the immunology franchise to \$2.63 billion in total sales.

STREET BRIEFS

Sausage makers fined \$460M for price-fixing

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's antitrust authority has imposed fines totaling 338 million euros (\$460 million) on 21 sausage manufacturers for colluding on prices. The Federal Cartel Office said Tuesday that the fines also included penalties against 33 individuals. The companies punished included Nestle subsidiary Herta, as well as Meica, Boeklunder and Wiesenhof. The cartel office says major sausage makers started colluding in 2003 to push through higher prices, agreeing on price ranges for various products. It says it was tipped off by an anonymous informant. Eleven companies decided to cooperate with authorities and admit wrongdoing. Cartel office chairman Andreas Mundt said the fines look high "but they are put into perspective by the large number of companies involved, how long the cartel lasted and the billions made in revenue on the market."

Novartis wants to use Google in its eye care

The Associated Press
Swiss drug developer Novartis will team with technology giant Google to develop a "smart" contact lens that could improve some eye conditions or help diabetics manage their disease. Terms of the agreement between the companies were not detailed in a statement released Tuesday by Novartis. The drugmaker said its Alcon eye care division will license Google technology and work with a team from Google to develop a lens that uses microchips and miniaturized electronics. Novartis is focused on developing a contact lens that can provide a continuous measurement of glucose levels in diabetic patients by measuring tear fluid.

JPMorgan's second-quarter net income falls

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — JPMorgan Chase, the nation's largest bank by assets, said Tuesday its second-quarter earnings fell 9 percent as revenue at its investment banking and mortgage businesses dropped. The bank's net income totaled \$5.6 billion in the quarter after payments to preferred shareholders. That was down from net income of \$6.1 billion in the same period last year. Earnings amounted to \$1.46 per share, compared

with \$1.60 a year earlier. They beat the forecasts of analysts polled by FactSet, who predicted earnings of \$1.29 a share.

Revenue in the quarter fell 3 percent to \$24.5 billion. Analysts had forecast \$23.7 billion for the period.

The earnings are the first since JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon disclosed at the start of this month that he was battling throat cancer. Dimon, 58,

said he plans to remain on the job and be actively involved in key decisions while undergoing radiation

and chemotherapy treatment.

Dimon told reporters on a conference call that JPMorgan's board would be continually briefed on his condition and would make any announcements if there were any material changes.

"I'm hoping the next time I talk about this at all, it will be in about eight weeks and I'll tell you (the treatment) is complete and the prognosis is still very good," Dimon said.

The bank's fixed income and stock trading revenue

fell 14 percent to \$4.65 billion from \$5.37 billion in the same period a year ago. While that was a big drop, the bank said in a regulatory statement May 2 that it was expecting trading revenue to decline by about 20 percent in the period.

Dimon said that the bank saw "encouraging signs" of a pickup in business across some of its units, including the markets division of investment banking.

"While it is too early to assume that this momentum will continue, we have confidence in the long-term

growth of the economy," Dimon said in a statement that accompanied the earnings.

Mortgage applications fell 54 percent to \$30.1 billion compared with a year earlier, however that was an increase of 15 percent from the first quarter.

An increase in bond yields since last summer has caused mortgage rates to rise, which in turn has slowed refinancing of home loans.

JPMorgan's stock rose \$2.09, or 3.7 percent, to \$58.40. □

Tobacco firm Reynolds American to buy Lorillard

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
AP Tobacco Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Joe Camel is bulking up to take on the Marlboro Man. Camel cigarette maker Reynolds American Inc.'s \$25 billion deal to buy Newport maker Lorillard Inc. creates a formidable No. 2 tobacco company in the U.S. behind Marlboro maker Altria. It also creates a powerhouse in menthol cigarettes, which are becoming a bigger part of the business and gives the combined company some breathing room even as people smoke fewer cigarettes every year.

The deal announced Tuesday also creates a new major player in the country's tobacco market, the U.K.'s Imperial Tobacco, which is buying some of the companies' other brands including Kool and Winston



Camel, a Reynolds American brand, and Newport, a Lorillard brand, cigarettes are displayed for sale, Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Doral, Fla. Cigarette maker Reynolds American Inc. is planning to buy rival Lorillard Inc. for about \$25 billion in a deal to combine two of the nation's oldest and biggest tobacco companies.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

and instantly becomes the king of e-cigarettes in the U.S. The deal also is a big indication that Reynolds

sees electronic cigarettes as a promising side business but not the whole future. To get the acquisition

done, Reynolds is ceding a commanding lead in the e-cigarette business by selling off Lorillard's dominant Blu e-cig brand, highly visible because of its TV commercials featuring Stephen Dorff and Jenny McCarthy, to Imperial.

Reynolds and Lorillard value the deal at about \$27 billion including debt. It is expected to close in the first half of 2015 but will likely face regulatory scrutiny. Lorillard shareholders would receive \$50.50 in cash for each share and 0.2909 of a share in Reynolds stock at closing, a combination valued by the companies at \$68.88 per share.

After the deal, company, which will remain based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is projected to have more than \$11 billion in revenue.

To help to ease regulatory

concerns about competition, Imperial Tobacco Group will buy the Kool, Salem, Winston, Maverick and Blu e-cig brands for \$7.1 billion, tripling its share of the U.S. cigarette market. Imperial already owns Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based Commonwealth-Altadis Inc., maker of USA Gold cigarettes.

Reynolds will keep its Camel, Pall Mall and Natural American Spirit brands and acquire Lorillard's flagship Newport brand, giving it 34 percent share of the U.S. retail cigarette market.

Newport and Camel are two of the largest players in menthol cigarettes. On its own, Newport accounts for 37 percent of the menthol segment. While people are smoking less, buying 19 percent fewer cigarettes overall in 2013 than five years earlier. □

Goldman Sachs posts higher profit and revenue

NEW YORK (AP) — Goldman Sachs said Tuesday that its quarterly profit rose 5 percent, helped by record results from investment banking. Second-quarter net income climbed to \$1.95 billion from \$1.86 billion a year earlier, the bank said early Tuesday. That's after paying dividends on preferred stock. Analysts had forecast that weak trading revenue would hamper results for Wall Street banks in the second quarter. Gold-

man's revenue and earnings were expected to shrink. But the bank said revenue rose 6 percent to \$9.13 billion over the year, much better than the \$7.97 billion analysts had expected, according to the data provider FactSet.

That was largely thanks to more companies paying Goldman to help them sell stocks and bonds and arrange their initial public offerings known. Goldman reported a record \$1.28 billion

in underwriting revenue, up 20 percent from the same period a year ago.

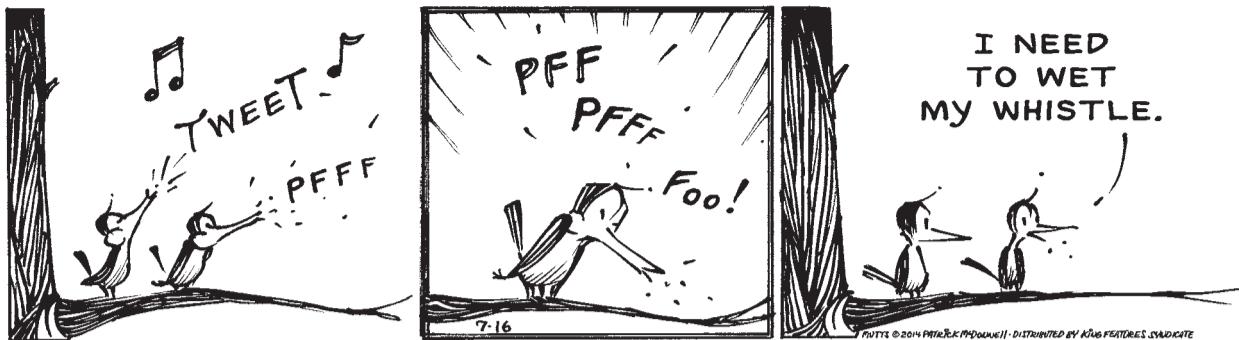
On a per-share basis, quarterly earnings were \$4.10, handily beating analysts' forecasts of \$3.05.

The news sent Goldman's stock up \$1.88, or 1.2 percent, to \$168.98 in early trading. In a statement, Goldman's CEO said he was "pleased" with the results. Lloyd Blankfein said a pickup in investment banking and investment man-

agement helped offset "less favorable conditions" for its institutional client unit. The main way that Goldman makes money is by trading on behalf of institutional investors such as pension funds and hedge funds. Revenue from that trading sank 12 percent, much as analysts had forecast. Traders thrive when markets take dramatic turns up and down, but financial markets were relatively quiet from the start of April to the end of June. In an effort to pare expenses, Goldman had been slashing pay over recent years, the bank's single biggest cost. In the second quarter, however, compensation was \$3.9 billion, up 6 percent from the year before. The bank's stock had slumped nearly 6 percent this year, making it the worst performer among the 30 big companies in the Dow Jones industrial average. □

Conceptis Sudoku

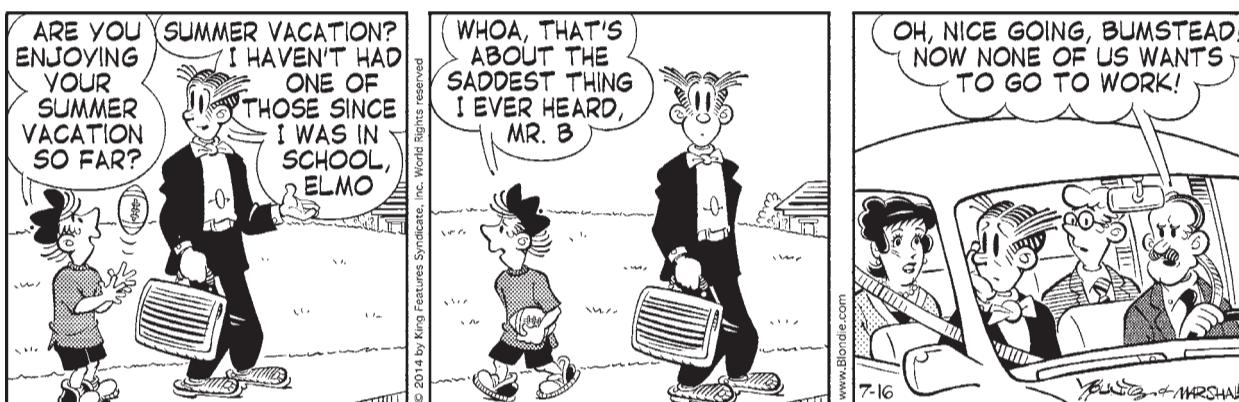
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



			2			
	4	5	3		1	8
1	2			3		9
7	1			8		3
2	4				7	6
	3				5	
	7			1		
	4	8	6	7		
	9	7	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	4	8	5	3	6	7	1	9	2
	1	6	2	8	9	4	7	5	3
	7	3	9	2	5	1	6	4	8
	3	4	6	5	1	2	9	8	7
	2	5	8	7	4	9	3	1	6
	9	1	7	6	8	3	5	2	4
	6	7	1	4	2	5	8	3	9
	8	9	4	1	3	6	2	7	5
	5	2	3	9	7	8	4	6	1

A crossword puzzle grid with the following numbered entries:

- 1: 2, 3
- 4: 5, 6, 7, 8
- 9: 10, 11, 12
- 13: 14
- 15: 16
- 17: 18
- 19: 20
- 21: 22
- 23: 24, 25
- 26: 27, 28
- 29: 30
- 31: 32, 33
- 34: 35
- 36: 37: 38
- 39: 40: 41
- 42: 43: 44
- 45: 46: 47
- 48: 49, 50
- 51: 52, 53
- 54: 55
- 56: 57
- 58: 59
- 60: 61
- 62: 63: 64
- 65: 66

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A completed crossword puzzle grid:

A	J	A	R		A	N	D	E	S	S	O	F	T
T	A	P	E		D	E	A	L	T		C	H	A
O	N	E	S		O	W	N	E	R		H	I	D
P	E	S	T	E	R	S	V	A	M	O	O	S	E
					A	L	E	N	E	P	A	L	
S	W	A	R	M	P	U	N		T	A	C	I	T
C	A	N	T		B	O	A	S	E	R	E	N	E
O	D	D		P	A	I	N	T	E	D	A	D	
F	E	R	R	E	C	U	E			L	A	N	D
F	R	E	E	D	M	E	G		C	A	R	E	Y
					P	A	C	E	S	L	A	B	
C	A	M	E	L	O	T	D	O	R	O	T	H	Y
U	P	O	N		C	A	B	I	N	R	H	E	A
B	E	L	T		O	L	I	V	E	E	A	R	N
A	X	E	S		A	S	N	E	R	D	I	K	

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39 King or queen	49 ___ off; galloped
41 Conjunction	away
42 Man, for short	50 Seep out
44 Broke into a computer	52 Persuade gently
45 Dusk	53 Scoop holder
47 Man's singing voice	54 Common meta
48 Search	55 Arrived 59 Wafer

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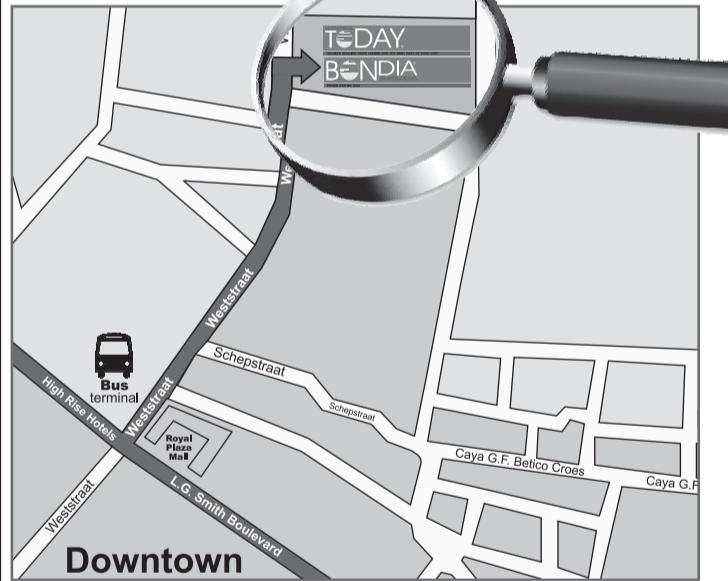


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Water levels at U.S. Lake Mead drop to new low

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Drought in the southwestern U.S. will deplete the vast Lake Mead this week to levels not seen since the Great Depression in the 1930s, federal water managers said Tuesday.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area, east of Las Vegas, is among the federal government's top tourist attractions. It drew some 6.3 million visitors in 2013, about the same number as the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Las Vegas, with more than 2 million residents and about 40 million tourists a year, is almost completely dependent on Lake Mead for drinking water.

The projected lake level of about 1,080 feet (330 meters) above sea level will be below the level of about 1,082 feet (330 meters) recorded in November 2010 and the 1,080-foot (330-meter) mark measured in April 1956 during another sustained drought. But U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regional chief Terry Fulp said water obligations will be met at least through next year without a key shortage declaration. The result will be full deliveries to cities, states, farms and tribes in an area that's home to some 40 million people and the cities of Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

The lake on Tuesday was just under 1,082 feet (330 meters) above sea level, and the reservoir was about 39 percent full, said Rose Davis, a bureau spokeswoman Nevada.

The dropping level since the reservoir was last full



This Oct. 22, 2010, file photo, shows low water levels in Boulder Harbor in Lake Mead, Ariz.

Associated Press

in 1998, at just under 1,296 feet (395 meters) above sea level, has left as much as 130 feet (39 meters) of distinctive white mineral "bathtub ring" on hard rock surfaces surrounding the lake.

Davis said the bureau expects a slight increase in water level to about 1,083 feet (330 meters) by Jan. 1, 2015.

Boaters and swimmers have largely ignored the dropping water levels in a place where splashing in cold fresh water on 100-degrees Fahrenheit (38-Celsius) summer days is a treat. But they've also dealt with marina closures in recent years. Visitors who used to feed scraps to carp from restaurant deck tables may now need to trek hundreds of yards with sandwiches and beach blankets to enjoy a water-side lunch.

"We projected this was coming," Davis said. "We are basically where we expected to be, given

the dry winters in 2012 and 2013."

Lake Mead today stores about 10.2 million acre-feet (12.5 million cubic meters) of water and is managed in conjunction with Lake Powell, the reservoir farther

up the Colorado River near the Utah-Arizona state line. Davis said Lake Powell was at 52 percent capacity, holding about 12.7 million acre-feet (15.6 million cubic meters) of water. Water officials say an acre-

foot is about enough water to supply an average Nevada household for a year. Fulp compares controlled management of the two largest reservoirs on the Colorado River to pouring tea from one cup to another. Seven southwestern U.S. states reap the result under a 1928 allocation agreement that also provides shares of Colorado River water to Native American tribes and Mexico.

Federal and state water officials have negotiated plans for a shortage declaration triggering delivery cuts to Nevada and Arizona if annual projections for the Lake Mead water level drop below a 1,075 foot (327 meter) elevation. That projection is based on data being compiled by the Bureau of Reclamation. Davis said the 1,075-foot (327-meter) trigger point is not expected this year or next. □

Study: Friends share similarities in their DNA

MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You may be more similar to your friends than you think: A study suggests that the DNA code tends to be more alike between friends than between strangers. That's beyond the effect of shared ethnicity, researchers say. And it could be important for theories about human evolution, says James Fowler of the University of California, San Diego.

He and Yale researcher Nicholas Christakis present their results in a paper released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

How much more alike are friends than strangers? Not much. Imagine the small similarity between fourth cousins, people who share a set of great-great-great grandparents.

The study included 1,932 participants in a long-running health study in Fram-

ingham, Massachusetts. Researchers knew who was close friends with whom from the 1970s to the early 2000s because of information gathered for the study. From this group they identified 1,367 pairs of close friends and about 1.2 million pairs of strangers. Then they examined information about nearly 467,000 locations in the DNA code of each participant. They looked for how similar the friend pairs were, and compared that to how similar the stranger pairs were.

The researchers found that genes affecting sense of smell were especially likely to be similar in friends.

Why would friends have more DNA similarities than strangers? Fowler said it's not clear. One possibility is that similar genes nudge people toward similar environments, which then gives them a chance to meet. Another possibility is that people who share certain genes also share skills that

become more valuable when the people work together, he said. This could have been important over evolutionary time, and so set up a pattern that people still follow, he said. Fowler also said it's not clear whether the finding pertains to groups outside of the Framingham study group, which is overwhelmingly Irish and Italian.

In any case, findings of DNA similarities between friends could help explain how behaviors like altruism developed over evolutionary time, he said.

Francisco Ayala, who studies evolutionary genetics at the University of California, Irvine, said the study's results surprised him. But "the statistics are there" to back up the conclusions, he said. Ben Domingue, a researcher at the University of Colorado, Boulder, called the results intriguing. "I am fairly convinced that they are onto something," he wrote in an email. □



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At Elvis Fest, impersonations are reverent tribute

MICHELLE RINDELS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The white-suited, chest hair-baring, blue contact-wearing men posing with fans outside the showroom of the former Las Vegas Hilton don't want to be called Elvis impersonators.

The correct term is Elvis tribute artist — or ETA for short — to distinguish their studied performances from the dime-a-dozen characters trolling the Strip.

"It's not a gag," explained Jason Sherry, producer of this weekend's Elvis Festival in Las Vegas, one of several sanctioned by Presley's estate that lead up to Elvis Week in Memphis in August. "It doesn't mean we don't enjoy it. But we're not making a mockery of Elvis."

Some three dozen ETAs took their gyrating hips and curled lips to the stage over the weekend to see who could do the most convincing portrayal. Prizes included \$2,500 in cash for the top performer and a chance to represent Las Vegas in the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist competition during Elvis Week.

Eli Williams, a Vancouver, British Columbia, resident who placed second in the contest, said he took up karate just like the King.

"It made a lot of what he



In this July 12, 2014 photo, from left, Daniel Jenkins, Tyler James and Jacob Roman joke around during the Las Vegas Elvis Festival in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

did make sense," said Williams, 26, of the singer's stage movements.

Like many ETAs, Frank Werth, a salesman from Hays, Kansas, buys his suits from B&K Enterprises, a company that employs the man who designed jumpsuits for Elvis himself.

An intricately embroidered suit might cost \$4,000, while the matching cape could run \$500.

"We try to re-create (shows) as closely as we can," said Werth, 32, who finished in third place. "Nothing is out of taste."

Licensed events help Elvis

Millions watch U.N. music video on LGBT rights

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United Nations says a Bollywood-inspired United Nations music video promoting equal rights for gays, lesbians, transgender people and bisexuals has been watched by more than one million people online and millions more on television since its release on April 30.

Charles Radcliffe of the U.N. Human Rights Office said Tuesday that for the United Nations the novel approach has "paid off."

The 2 ½-minute video stars Indian actress Celina Jaitly, who was named a U.N. Equality Champion by human rights chief Navi Pillay last year for her support for LGBT rights.

Jaitly said Tuesday that she has been "overwhelmed by the positive response." She said the video is aimed at promoting the difficult conversations that promote change "in a wonderful light hearted way through the universal language of music."

Presley's estate cultivate a fan base decades after radio stations stopped playing "Love Me Tender," and promote the more positive aspects of his life and career, Sherry said.

Organizers have tweaked the festival to keep up with the changing demographics. For example, they ditched sock hops and replaced them with an after-hours party more familiar to Millennials.

The intergenerational allure of Elvis was on display among the dozen or so people of all ages who came from Penticton, British Columbia, to Las Vegas to watch hometown boy Adam Fitzpatrick, 29, take home top honors at the contest.

Joely Richardson to play poet Emily Dickinson

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Joely Richardson is coming back to a New York stage in something she never thought she'd do — a one-woman show.

The English actress known for the TV shows "The Tudors" and "Nip/Tuck" will play poet Emily Dickinson in William Luce's play "The Belle of Amherst."

"Never say never," Richardson said. "I always swore to myself that I would never do a one-woman show. I thought, 'That's for crazy people.' And then I read it."

The play, directed by Steve Cosson, will begin performances Oct. 7 at the off-Broadway Westside Theatre, with an opening night set for Oct. 19. Tickets are now on sale.

In "The Belle of Amherst," Dickinson acts as the narrator of her life story, welcoming audiences to her home in Amherst, Massachusetts, in the 1880s and looking back on her life. Dickinson's most famous



This May 8, 2013 file photo shows Joely Richardson at the Tate Americas Foundation Artists Dinner in New York. Richardson is coming back to a New York stage for a one-woman show.

Associated Press

poems include "Because I Could Not Stop For Death" and "Hope Is the Thing With Feathers."

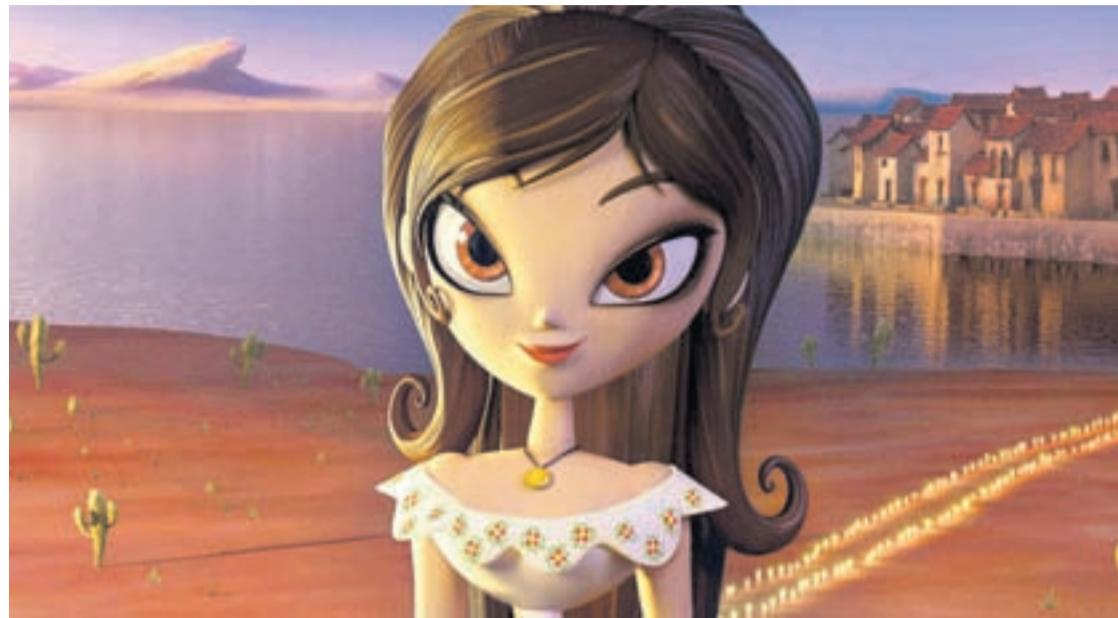
Julie Harris played the role on Broadway and won the 1977 Tony Award for best actress.

Richardson was filming "Papa" in Cuba — she plays Ernest Hemingway's fourth wife, Mary, in the film — when she read the script early one morning and immediately emailed her agent to sign up.

"It was instant. I just completely responded to the material," she said. "It's full of humor and it was this off-mix of the sacred and profane that I just thought was brilliant."

Richardson has appeared in films such as "101 Dalmatians," "Event Horizon," "The Patriot" and "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." She started out on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Old Vic, then moved into films.

New film 'Book of Life' animates Day of the Dead



This photo released by Twentieth Century Fox & Reel FX shows Maria voiced by Zoe Saldana, in a scene from the animated comedy, "Book of Life." Guillermo del Toro is helping to open the "Book of Life."

Associated Press

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Guillermo del Toro is helping to open the "Book of Life." The Oscar winner is producing the animated feature by first-time director Jorge Gutierrez, and joined him at Fox Studios on Monday to unveil footage from the film, set for release in October. "Book of Life" is rich with imagery from Mexican folklore, with a special emphasis on the Day of the Dead, the food- and music-filled celebration of the annual return of the spirits of deceased loved ones.

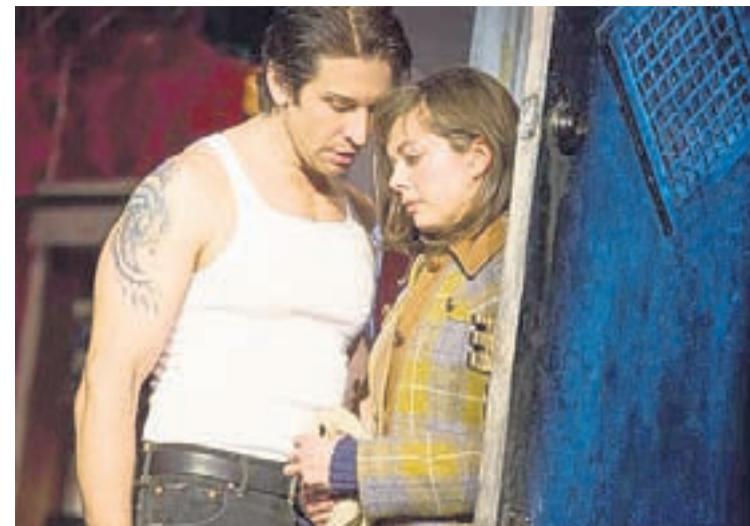
Del Toro said he was moved by Gutierrez's emotional, visual and narrative connection to Mexico.

"It was a huge nostalgia," del Toro said, "a very painful and beautiful nostalgia that made me say I'm going to protect this project and celebrate this guy." It helped that Gutierrez presented his ideas and illustrations over "a trunk of tequila," the filmmaker said.

"Book of Life" centers on two best friends angling for the girl of their dreams, not realizing that otherworldly powers have a stake in the outcome. The leaders of

the underworlds, the Land of the Remembered and the Land of the Forgotten, make a wager on which lover the girl will choose.

Zoe Saldana, Channing Tatum and Diego Luna lead the voice cast. The film also features ranchera interpretations of popular songs by Mumford & Sons, Radiohead, Rod Stewart and others. Oscar-winning composer Gustavo Santaolalla provides the score. The approach to music and animation is unique, del Toro said. "It's enchanting and gorgeous in a way that is not the cookie-cutter way," he said. □



This image released by Polk and Co. shows Margo Seibert, right, and Andy Karl during a performance of "Rocky," a musical based on the iconic film, at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

Musical of film 'Rocky' knocked down on Broadway

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Broadway musical "Rocky" is hanging up its gloves after being battered at the box office. Producers said Tuesday that the show will play its final performance at the Winter Garden Theatre on Aug. 17,

after playing 28 previews and 188 regular performances.

Based on the Oscar-winning 1976 film by Sylvester Stallone, the musical features a score by "Ragtime" veterans Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, and a

story by Thomas Meehan, who wrote "Hairspray." Alex Timbers directed.

The musical stays close to the film, which charted the rise and romance of amateur boxer and debt collector Rocky Balboa, who gets his shot against an undefeated heavyweight champ. Andy Karl starred as the hero.

The musical never took off after mixed to poor reviews, despite a spectacular final few minutes when the boxing ring is lowered onto the first few rows. It broke the \$1 million-mark only once and lately was making only half its \$1,263,688 potential. □

Review: 'The Bone Orchard' is satisfying mystery

BRUCE DESILVA
Associated Press

Mike Bowditch's recklessness and insubordination, along with his struggle with a series of personal tragedies, seemed to make him a bad match for his job as a Maine game warden. So, as the fifth novel in this fine series opens, it comes as no great surprise that Mike has quit law enforcement and taken refuge as a fishing guide in the state's great North Woods.

But Sgt. Kathy Frost, Mike's former mentor in the warden service, is in trouble.

A suicidal Afghanistan war vet she was assigned to help has been shot dead. The ex-soldier's politically connected parents and former army buddies blame her. And she is under investigation for her role in the affair.

Thinking he might be able to help, or at least offer a sympathetic ear, Mike drives to her cabin and comes under sniper fire in her driveway.

He finds his old friend critically wounded.

A civilian now, Mike has no business getting involved.

As reckless and impetuous as always, he dives in anyway.

The authorities suspect the dead soldier's old army buddies for the attack on Kathy.

Mike casts his net wider as he pursues the case from the urban landscape of Portland to the desolate farming villages of Aroostook County.

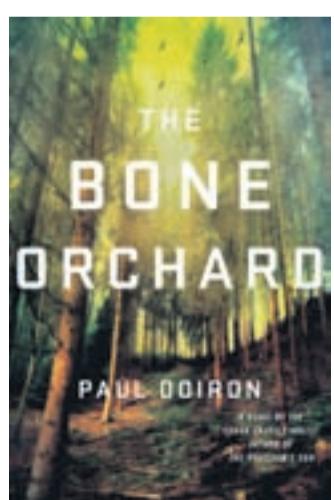
As always, Doiron describes his state so vividly that it becomes not just the setting but also a character in its own right.

As Mike's list of suspects

grows, he digs deeply into Kathy's past. Along the way, he also keeps running into people from his own past, including old friends, old enemies and an ex-wife.

The encounters lead to much soul-searching — so much that for a good portion of the book, the biggest mystery Mike confronts isn't who shot Kathy, it's what kind of man Mike has become.

This makes "The Bone Orchard" both a rich exploration of character and a satisfying mystery story. □



This book cover image released by Minotaur shows "The Bone Orchard," by Paul Doiron.

Associated Press

Baseball or Soccer?



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Is life more like baseball, or is it more like soccer?

Baseball is a team sport, but it is basically an accumulation of individual activities. Throwing a strike, hitting a line drive or fielding a grounder is primarily an individual achievement. The team that performs the most individual tasks well will probably win the game.

Soccer is not like that. In soccer, almost no task, except the penalty kick and a few others, is intrinsically individual. Soccer, as Simon Critchley pointed out recently in *The New York Review of Books*, is a game about occupying and controlling space. If you get the ball and your teammates have run the right formations, and structured the space around you, you'll have three or four options on where to distribute it. If the defenders have structured their formations to control the space, then you will have no options. Even the act of touching the ball is not primarily defined by the man who is touching it; it is defined by the context created by all the other players.

As Critchley writes, "Soccer is a collective game, a team game, and everyone has to play the part which has been assigned to them, which means they have to understand it spatially, positionally and intelligently and make it effective." Brazil wasn't clobbered by Germany this week because the quality of the individual players was so much worse. Brazil got slaughtered because its players did a pathetic job of controlling space. A German player would touch the ball, even close to the Brazilian goal, and he had ample room to make the kill.

Most of us spend our days thinking we are playing baseball, but we are really playing soccer. We think we individually choose what career path to take, whom to socialize with, what views to hold. But, in fact, those decisions are shaped by the networks of people around us more than we dare recognize.

This influence happens through at least three avenues. First there is contagion. People absorb memes, ideas and behaviors from each other the way they catch a cold. As Nicholas Christakis and others have shown, if your friends are obese, you're likely to be obese. If your

neighbors play fair, you are likely to play fair. We all live within distinct moral ecologies. The overall environment influences what we think of as normal behavior without you being much aware of it.

Then there is the structure of your network. There is by now a vast body of research on how differently people behave depending on the structure of the social networks. People with vast numbers of acquaintances have more job opportunities than people with fewer but deeper friendships. Most organizations have structural holes, gaps between two departments or disciplines. If you happen to be in an undeveloped structural hole where you can link two departments, your career is likely to take off.

Innovation is hugely shaped by the structure of an industry at any moment. Individuals in Silicon Valley are creative now because of the fluid structure of failure and recovery. Broadway was incredibly creative in the 1940s and 1950s because it was a fluid industry in which casual acquaintances ended up collaborating.

Since then, studies show, theater social networks have rigidified, and, even if you collaborate with an ideal partner, you are not as likely to be creative as you would have been when the global environment was more fertile.

Finally, there is the power of the extended mind. There is also a developed body of research on how much our very consciousness is shaped by the people around us. Let me simplify it with a classic observation: Each close friend you have brings out a version of yourself that you could not bring out on your own. When your close friend dies, you are not only losing the friend but are losing the version of your personality that he or she elicited.

Once we acknowledge that, in life, we are playing soccer, not baseball, a few things become clear. First, awareness of the landscape of reality is the highest form of wisdom. It's not raw computational power that matters most; it's having a sensitive attunement to the widest environment, feeling where the flow of events is going. Genius is in practice perceiving more than the conscious reasoning.

Second, predictive models will be less useful. Baseball is wonderful for sabermetricians. In each at bat there is a limited range of possible outcomes. Activities like soccer are not as easily renderable statistically, because the relevant spatial structures are harder to quantify. Even the estimable statistician Nate Silver of FiveThirtyEight gave Brazil a 65 percent chance of beating Germany.

Finally, Critchley notes that soccer is like a 90-minute anxiety dream - one of those frustrating dreams when you're trying to get somewhere but something is always in the way. This is yet another way soccer is like life. □



Look Homeward, LeBron



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2014 New York Times

One of the more significant migrations in recent American history doesn't involve pioneers heading West, refugees seeking sanctuary, or Joad-like families rambling in search of work. It involves the trajectory of our nation's most talented citizens, who since the 1970s have been clustering ever more densely in certain favored cities, and gradually abandoning the places in between.

In a mid-2000s piece for *The Atlantic*, Richard Florida, long a booster of "creative class" conurbations, noted that in 1970 college graduates were distributed pretty evenly around the country, but that three decades later they were much more concentrated. A few regions (the BosWash Northeast, the Bay Area, etc.) were destinations of choice for the well-educated, and large swaths of the country emphatically were not. In Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, he noted, half the population had college degrees; for Detroit and Cleveland, the figures were 11 percent and 14 percent.

This migration has happened for understandable personal and professional reasons (said the pundit writing from a coffee shop in northeastern Washington, D.C.), and the dense professional networks it has created have arguably been good for certain kinds of economic dynamism.

But elite self-segregation, and what Charles Murray has dubbed the "coming apart" of the professional and working classes, has also contributed to

America's growing social problems - hardening lines of class and culture, adding layers of misunderstanding and mistrust to an already polarized polity, and leaching brains and social capital from communities that need them most.

Which brings us to the fascinating story of LeBron James. The basketball superstar's trajectory up until Friday looked like the entire migration of the talented in miniature (well, a 6-foot-8 miniature). A child of depressed northeastern Ohio, with its struggling cities and declining population, James grew up to be drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers, played for his home-state team for seven brilliant but championship-free seasons, and then famously bolted for a richer, more glamorous locale.

And why? Not just for the money and amenities, but for the professional network. Like superstars in less-athletic fields, James felt that his productivity would be magnified by the right partnerships - in his case, by sharing a court with fellow stars Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade. And four NBA Finals appearances and two rings later, it's clear he judged correctly.

But now he's making the migration in reverse, returning to the battered Midwestern city he famously betrayed. And strikingly, his statement announcing the move doubled as a kind of communitarian manifesto, implicitly critiquing the values underlying elite self-segregation in America:

"My presence can make a difference in Miami, but I think it can mean more where I'm from. I want kids in Northeast Ohio ... to realize that there's no better place to grow up. Maybe some of them will come home after college and start a family or open a business ... Our community, which has struggled so much, needs all the talent it can get."

"In Northeast Ohio, nothing is given. Everything is earned. You

work for what you have."

"I'm ready to accept the challenge. I'm coming home."

Now I don't want to make too much of an exhortation that is, of course, partially just a rich athlete's brand-managing PR. Especially since homecomings are fraught, complicated undertakings - for superstars even more than ordinary mortals, perhaps - and this one is as likely to end with James feuding with ownership or forcing a trade as with a championship.

Moreover, even if everything goes smoothly on the court, James' "hard work" will be rather more richly rewarded than the typical Ohioan's, and he'll be "coming home" while still living, really, in the secure and gilded bubble of the rich and famous. So for a future college graduate deciding between staying on the Acela Corridor or coming back to Akron or Youngstown to raise a family, James' example is symbolically inspiring without being terribly relevant to the hazards of real life.

But with all those caveats, there will be a spillover effect of some sort from his decision. Even if it only happens on the margins, James really did just make a down-at-the-heels part of America a slightly better place to live and work and settle.

And the return of the King is also a reminder that social trends, like careers, aren't arrows that fly in one direction only. As real estate prices rise insanely on the coasts, as telecommuting becomes more plausible for more people, as once-storied cities hit bottom and rebound ... well, there could be more incentives for less-extraordinary professionals to imitate this heartland native's unexpected return.

At the very least there's nothing written that says we have to come apart forever. Or that some Americans with less extraordinary but still substantial gifts can't find a way, like James, to take those talents home again. □

Wine From a Sacred Place in Spain

ERIC ASIMOV

© 2014 New York Times

If you travel widely enough around the grape-growing regions of the world, you gather ample testimony of the driving, historic human desire to make good wine. What else could explain the compulsion to

backbreaking labor these vines required was a matter of choice.

Nor was it an economic necessity. Until fairly recently, Ribeira Sacra was largely cut off from the rest of Spain, though a few farmers shipped wine by river to Lugo, a city to the

renew the terraces. The hills of Ribeira Sacra came alive again.

I visited Ribeira Sacra in 2009, at a nascent point in its revival, just as its wines were beginning to make an international impact. Five years later, it seemed time for the wine panel to

wines, defined as much by the rainy, temperate Atlantic coast as the soils, the slopes and the people who farm them. The reds are made predominantly of the mencía grape, which is also the basis for the reds of the Bierzo region to the east. But where the Bierzo

ize precious Burgundies and Barolos? Or will it simply endure and grow mellow, without the intricacy of a profound wine? Let's check in 15 years.

El Pecado was by far the most ambitious (and, at \$97, expensive) wine in the tasting. Our No. 1 bottle, the 2010 Lalama from Domínio do Bibei, was graceful, fresh and complex. It's a wine intended for early consumption, and it's at a joyous peak right now. Bibei also makes a more ambitious, age-worthy cuvée, Lacima, which we did not have in the tasting, though it is well worth seeking out. Ribeira Sacra already excels at making wines like Lalama, full of deliciousness at an early stage. Our No. 2 bottle, the 2012 mencía from Algueira, was spicy and wild, with a slate-like minerality. At \$16, it was also our best value. The 2011 Viña Caneiro from D. Ventura, our No. 5 bottle, was so juicy, fruity and floral, with an underlying mineral element, that it seemed to scream, "Drink me!"

Algueira's slightly more complex mencía wine, the 2010 Pizarra, aged in old oak barrels rather than steel tanks, was our No. 3 bottle, neck and neck with the other Algueira. Perhaps it was slightly riper and more complex, but not quite as vivacious. A third Algueira wine, the 2011 Fincas, was our No. 10 bottle. Unlike the other two, this was made of the caino tinto grape, also known as borraçal. It was richer and maybe a little shriller than the mencía wines, without their delicacy and complexity.

It used to be said that mencía was related to cabernet franc. Although this has been shown genetically not to be true, it's easy to see why people may have seen a relationship when drinking a wine like our No. 6 bottle, the 2010 Capelíños from Guiomar, a fascinating, tart wine that leavened its herbaceous quality with flavors of red fruits. □



Grapes grow on the steep hillsides of the Ribeira Sacra region, near Amandi in northwest Spain. The long-neglected Ribeira Sacra has resumed producing cool-climate red wines, the best of which epitomize the juicy freshness of the mencía grape.

(Eutropio Rodriguez/The New York Times)

plant vines on ridiculously steep hillsides in the Mosel and the Rheingau, in the northern Rhône Valley, in Priorat and the Douro, and in Ribeira Sacra in the Galicia region of northwestern Spain?

Thousands of years before the lucrative global wine economy of today, Romans carved terraces on slopes in Ribeira Sacra that rose at precipitous angles from the rivers below. They planted vines to keep themselves supplied with wine. Over the centuries, monks expanded and maintained the network of vines, which was farmed by the church and by locals, for whom grapes were just one of many subsistence crops. It was not a matter of survival - grains and produce planted on the flats saw to that. The

north, mostly for local consumption.

At the end of the 19th century, grape phylloxera, a ravenous aphid that preys on the roots of European vines, destroyed much of the crop. Agricultural disaster was followed by economic depression, civil war and dictatorship. Many of the historical terraces were abandoned, and the children of farmers left for work in the cities.

Then a curious thing happened. Near the end of the 20th century, people began to return to Ribeira Sacra. Disillusioned by the city, perhaps, or drawn by the promise of the slate-and-granite soils at a time when other once-obscure Spanish wine regions were developing worldwide reputations, they came back to replant the vines and

survey the region, so we tasted 17 red wines from recent vintages. For the tasting, Florence Fabricant and I were joined by Ashley Santoro, wine director at the Standard East Village restaurants, including Narcissa, and Gil Avital, wine director at Tertulia in Greenwich Village, New York.

Ordinarily we would taste 20 bottles for a cross-section of a particular region. But few Ribeira Sacra producers are imported to the United States. Even by including multiple cuvées from several producers, the best we could do was 17 bottles. But that was enough to clearly demonstrate the distinctive, unusual character of these wines.

Unlike most Spanish reds, these are cool-climate

wines tend to be denser and burlier, the best reds of Ribeira Sacra epitomize juicy freshness. These are lively, graceful wines, with the same sort of aromatic loveliness and lissome body that draws people to Burgundy and Barolo.

I'm speaking of the young wines. Ribeira Sacra, though ancient, is still early enough in its renewal that we don't know how the wines will age. Not that age-worthy wines are not being made. Our No. 4 wine, the 2011 El Pecado from Raúl Pérez, has the richness and intensity to age for years, while maintaining a lightness of texture that is a hallmark of Ribeira Sacra. The mystery is how it will evolve. Will it develop the complex secondary and tertiary aromas and flavors that character-